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THE NEWSPAPER FOR FOLKESTONE, HYTHE AND DISTRICT



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HUGE INTEREST IN AIRPORT DEBATE

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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Watch video of Shepway youngsters on the police skidpan at Maidstone this year

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Picture ADY KERRY



HAPPY AS A LAMB, IN WINTER?

A Kentish new-born lamb and its mother look to the year ahead. A delightful picture, but what's really striking is that it was taken in December rather than the more usual springtime. Strange days indeed.

BY ROB LIVINGSTONE

SHEPWAY District Council has underestimated the public interest in the decision over plans to expand Lydd airport, according to the district's Liberal Democrats.

The council's development control committee is due to meet at at Folkestone's Civic Centre on January 30 to decide on whether to approve the plans or to reject them.

Public interest is expected to be high, say the Liberal Democrats, but the public gallery in the Civic Centre is "small and likely to be insufficient" for the numbers expected.

In a motion put before the council in its full meeting on December 19, the Liberal Democrats said the council had a duty to encourage public participation in its democratic processes.

The council resolved to "secure the use of a building within the Shepway area that has sufficient accommodation for the many hundreds of Shepway citizens, and many other interested parties, who will undoubtedly wish to attend".

The plans to expand Lydd airport would see a 399-metre extension of the runway to allow larger planes and the construction of a new terminal capable of handling 500,000 passengers a year.

The owner of Lydd airport, London Ashford Airport (LAA), claims the expansion will create hundreds of new jobs and lead to an improvement in the transport infrastructure of the area.

But opponents of the plans say the environmental damage to the Dungeness peninsula would outweigh any benefit brought to the area.

The increase in air traffic would also increase the threat of an aircraft crashing into Dungeness nuclear power station, according to a report commissioned by the Lydd Airport Action Group

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Kent
BUSINESS AWARDS
2007 WINNER
KENT COMPANY of the YEAR

...not just an estate agent

see pages 30-31



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WHAT'S ON & WATCH

yourkenttv.co.uk

TOP TV CLIPS



1 In one of her last interviews in England, Benazir Bhutto discussed the threat from Al-Qaeda. **See Community TV**



2 How you can help preserve one of England's most beautiful landscapes. Search for Kent Downs on **Community TV**



3 Puppet reporter Ken Tishman looks at the controversial issue of wind farms in the county. **See Community TV**

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Leas coastal park redevelopment wins two awards

■ BY ROB LIVINGSTONE

FOLKESTONE'S redeveloped Leas Coastal Park has won two awards for design.

The park, which extends for a mile across the bottom of the Leas, saw an abandoned stretch of undercliff transformed from scrubland to a series of gardens, complete with walkways, avenues of pine trees and an adventure playground for children.

There is also an amphitheatre which was used to put on productions throughout the summer.

The park, which was designed by architects Brook Hobbins with the backing of Shepway District Council, won the category of the Royal Town and Planning Institute's (RTPI) City and Metropolitan Area and Town Regeneration category in the South East.

The RTPI's panel judged at the awards in Reading that the park was "an example for others" for its innovative and successful use of available space.

The park then went on to be voted overall winner of the six categories of the competition, which included sustainable communities, natural environments, planning process and development in a sensitive area.

Quality

The judges said: "The panel were particularly impressed with the quality of the finished scheme, both in its design, layout and high-quality robust materials, that enhances the coastal area and provides a free fun area in a modern take on the British seaside."

"The planners are to be commended for working in partnership and capitalising on the opportunity for improving the wider area that was provided by necessary coastal protection works."

Clare Wright, chairman of the Regional Awards Panel, said the park represented the way forward for the British seaside in the 21st century.

"It enhances this coastal area and provides a free fun leisure area in a modern take on the British seaside," said Ms Wright.



PRaise: 'We are lucky to have so many able building contractors, good design teams and architects producing stunning designs'

"The aim of the awards is to promote and raise awareness of good practice in planning."

"The awards mark the diversity of planning achievement and look beyond the purely physical outcomes to recognise innovative plans, processes and techniques, information systems and programmes of community."

"The panel wants to promote the best of what is new and the best of what is familiar, but which has been handled in a new way."

The Leas Coastal Park also recently won the Kent County Council Kent Design award for Landscape Design.

At the awards ceremony at Canterbury's International Study Centre, KCC leader Paul Carter said: "We are lucky to have so many able building contractors, good professional design teams and architects producing some stunning designs across the county."

Cllr Rory Love, Shepway cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Our aim was to make the most of the site's unique location along almost a mile stretch of undercliff."

"Winning this award is another fantastic achievement for the park and is richly deserved."

yourshepway

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chaotic start to Boxing Day hunt

MEMBERS of the East Sussex and Romney Marsh Boxing Day drag hunt have been blasted as irresponsible by police after chaotic scenes in a small town.

The mayhem at Battle in Sussex saw a horse jumping onto the bonnet of a Renault in the high street and kicking in its window after being hit by a horse-drawn cart.

The three people in the car narrowly avoided injury and the horse received a cut to its leg before rolling over the car.

Police say the hunt may need to begin at another location because of the risk to the public.

Sgt Chris Russell, of Battle police, said: "They had the hunt here last year and, although I wasn't here, I heard about a similar incident."

Some changes may be in order for the hunt to continue to run out of Battle to prevent risk to the public from recurring, said Sgt Russell.

"They need to look at the arrangements of the hunt - maybe the hunt is too big to meet in the high street of a small town," said Sgt Russell.

"I have got no issues against the event itself, but they have got to take some responsibility as they are using a public road and have to abide by the same rules as everyone else."

The majority of the hunt had behaved responsibly, but the huntsmen who had not kept their horses in check had caused widespread disruption in Battle's high street.

Consideration

"Some of them acted irresponsibly and did not have due consideration for other people and vehicles using the high street," said Sgt Russell.

Police did not make any arrests and did not hand out any cautions, and Sgt Russell said that no action would be taken against the driver of the horse and cart.

The annual hunt, which first rode out in 1966, was holding a drag hunt, in which dogs are allowed to chase the artificial scent of a fox but are not to be used to kill any foxes that are found.

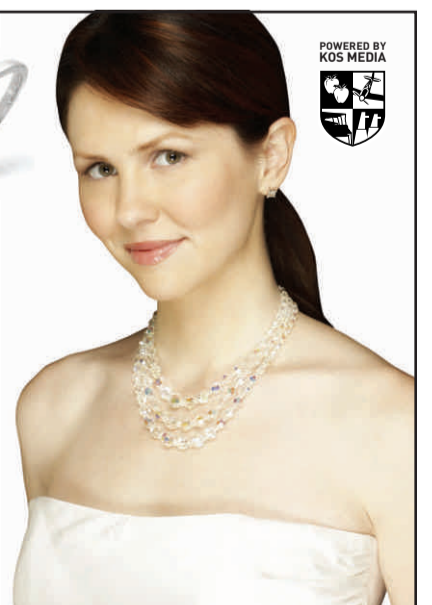
These rules were introduced after the introduction of legislation in 2004 that banned the use of hunting with dogs.



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Helping save the animals is big business

Rewards scheme raises funds for foundation

A REWARDS scheme that benefits animals has proved a tremendous success just months after launching.

Aspinall Rewards was set up in October and allows companies to reward their employees while raising money for animal conservation.

More than 150 companies have signed up to the scheme, which collects offers from the companies involved and posts them on the Aspinall Rewards website.

The money raised is then put towards the Aspinall Foundation's programme of animal conservation.

This has resulted in 50 lowland gorillas, whose parents were killed for the bush meat trade, being rehabilitated into the million-acre nature reserve that the foundation manages in Gabon and Congo. The scheme has also contributed to the release of five black rhinos in reserves in South Africa and Tanzania.

Robert Boutwood, director of fund-raising projects at the Aspinall

■ BY ROB LIVINGSTONE

Foundation, explained the origins of the project: "With the African rehabilitation programmes currently costing in excess of £500,000, the rewards programme has been launched to help deliver much-needed funds to the Aspinall Foundation.

"This is for it to continue its ground-breaking conservation work worldwide."

The rewards scheme allows businesses involved to reward their staff and customers, as well as raising money for the protection and conservation of wildlife.

Mr Boutwood continued: "With UK companies spending around £9 billion a year on rewarding their staff and customers this programme provides organisations with the opportunity to invest some of this expenditure in a valuable way.

"We are aware that as a charity we are always asking businesses for their help, but this time we are able

to provide companies with a benefit for their employees and customers alike while they continue to help their local conservation charity at the same time."

For £199 per annum, businesses can feature offers on the website, meaning that members of the scheme can save money through preferential discounts.

Savings of up to 60 per cent are available on DVDs, electrical goods, bicycles, holidays, home and travel insurance and vintage wine.

Nat Hanif, corporate sales executive at Virgin Experience Days, one of the companies to join the rewards programme, said that the scheme had provided many advantages.

"We are delighted to be a key player in the Aspinall Rewards programme," said Nat. "Businesses who buy into the programme are putting something back into the community and receiving substantial benefits themselves."

For more information, phone 0870 990 3971 or go to www.support@aspinallrewards.co.uk.



REWARDS: The scheme means big businesses can help themselves and be of benefit to animals in need, such as this delightful baby rhinoceros, and 50 orphaned gorillas

Enjoy the carols

A NEW video is up and running on Yourkenttv which shows the Invicta X-mas Factor carol concert.

More than 40,000 people took part in a vote to find the county's top choir after songs were broadcast on James Heming and Ali Wheeler's morning show.

The most popular 10 then went through to a grand sing-off.

The eventual winner was Minster Primary School, Sheppey, with Grove Park Sittingbourne coming second.

Burham Park in Rochester finished third, while other favourites included Seabrook in Hythe.

Lottery grant is child's play

CHILDREN in the district are being encouraged to play after Shepway District Council secured almost a quarter of a million pounds in Lottery funding.

The £235,842 from the Big Lottery Fund is part of a £7.8 million package to be spent across the South East to provide safe play for children.

Alison Rowe, head of the Big Lottery Fund in the South East, said: "The fund recognises the health, well-being and fitness opportunities that good play facilities can bring - we want to help move children into safe and imaginative play surroundings."

The money secured by SDC will be spent on three projects dedicated to giving children the opportunity to play in safe environments.

The first project is the Mobile Activity Programme (MAP), which will run in school holidays.

MAP will target 14 of the most deprived rural wards in the district by offering a range of activities such as art, craft and sports classes, as well as a chance to learn circus skills.

The second project, Fairplay,

will see play areas for both disabled and able-bodied children built at Oakham Drive in Lydd, Fairfield recreation ground in New Romney and Radnor Park in Folkestone.

There will also be a play area in either Seabourne Way in Dymchurch or Country's Field in St Mary's Bay.

The third project is the Challenge Project, which seeks to encourage children to develop self-esteem through adventurous outdoor play.

The project will see play equipment built at Brabner playing field in east Folkestone and at Lyminge recreation ground.

Cllr William Richardson, SDC cabinet member for sports leisure and technical services, said the funding would help Shepway's children to become more active: "It shows that the projects we submitted were well thought of by the Big Lottery Fund."

New Romney town councillor Patricia Rolfe, who is a member of the Shepway Play Partnership, said: "This is fantastic news for all the children in Shepway."

South Kent College

For a selection of courses starting early in the New Year, visit www.southkent.ac.uk/newyear

Places are still available on two full-time courses starting in January:

Food Preparation and Cooking NVQ 1
(Dover Campus)

Hairdressing NVQ 2
(Folkestone Campus)

Alternatively, call in at one of our campuses or telephone
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Full screen

Find out more about the Safe Winter campaign across the county

JAN
2007

● CANTERBURY Cathedral is crumbling because of old age, said campaigners hoping to raise £50 million to save the ancient and iconic Kent landmark.

● MOST of Kent's road users were caught up in the chaos caused by Operation Stack, when police partially close part of the M20 every time the ports of Dover or Calais struggle against the weather or industrial action. Kent County Council shortlisted three sites for use as a giant lorry park.

● MILLIONAIRE Tory donor Stuart Wheeler made the shock announcement he was considering giving money to the Eurosceptic UK Independence Party.

The spread-bet tycoon, who owns Chilham Castle, said he wanted the Tory Party to take a harder line on Europe.

The Kent on Sunday revelation sent shockwaves through Westminster and was the top item in all major news bulletins the next day.

FEB
2007

● KOS interviewed the partially blind widow of a war hero who had been left distraught after thieves broke into her home and stole his medals. Commander Guy Clarabut, a submarine captain, was awarded a Distinguished Service Order, Distinguished Service Cross and two Military Crosses for his valiant and brave actions during World War Two.

● THE Bishop of Rochester warned that Britain could return to a "form of barbarism" if the decline of Christianity continued.

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali described Islam as the biggest threat facing the West since communism and called on the Government to stop being embarrassed of identifying with the nation's Christian roots.

● SINGER James Morrison visited Kent to play a low-key gig at the ABode hotel's pub in Canterbury as a guest of Invicta FM's excellent Live at the Local series.

Later that week the charismatic 22-year-old was named the Best British Solo Artist at the Brit Awards.

MAR
2007

● LOCAL government in Ashford and the regional development agency became mired in a pornography scandal in March. Martin Bacon was the £100,000 managing director of Ashford's Future, the quango set up to deliver regeneration and jobs.

He suddenly resigned and Ashford council and the South East England Development Agency closed ranks. Finally, council leader Paul Clokie confirmed to KoS that Mr Bacon had been downloading pornography on his office computer.

● THIS month it was revealed £2m of taxpayers' money was being paid to council bosses in Kent every year.

The Kent on Sunday investigation into local authority pay packets revealed how nearly all of the county's 16 chief executives enjoyed salaries of around £100,000 a year.

And Kent County Council's Peter Gilroy was the UK's top paid chief executive. He earns £230,000 a year, which is more than the Prime Minister.

● KENT County Council came under fire again this month for wasting £90,000 on a failed scheme to set up passenger flights to America from Manston Airport.

Tour operator Cosmos pulled out and KCC lost all of its cash. The loss came less than two years after EUjet went bust. KCC had also invested £100,000 in that failed venture.

Review of 2007

It has been another eventful year for Kent, with everything from the Tour de France to earthquakes making headlines. Here's the pick of the news, as reported by our sister paper Kent on Sunday, over the last 365 days

APR
2007

● PEOPLE in east Kent suffered an earthquake on Saturday, April 28.

The tremor, which measured 4.3 on the Richter Scale, struck at 8.19am and caused an estimated £20m insurance bill. Thousands of homes were left temporarily without power in Folkestone and Dover.

● THRILLER writer David Hewson published his account of the battle to prevent the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Wye from being covered in thousands of homes.

Saved told of the campaign fought against Imperial College, Kent County Council and Ashford council, which were working together to push through plans for a massive housing estate and a science park at Wye.

One of the reviews said: "This book is invaluable for any community, rural or otherwise, whose way of life and environment is being threatened by seemingly overwhelming fire-power and resources."

MAY
2007

● THE deputy leader of Kent County Council was in the American state of Virginia helping to celebrate the Queen's state visit.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first English-speaking settlement at Jamestown.

KCC's Cllr Alex King led a Kent delegation to Virginia.

● KENT on Sunday exposed the injustice of how one third of the county's care homes only got 'adequate' or 'poor' ratings.

Age Concern, Britain's largest charity for old

people, said standards at many of the homes were "just not good enough".

But KCC pointed out that 60 per cent of homes were assessed as 'good' or 'excellent' and less than 10 per cent were 'poor'.

● A POLL by Kent on Sunday showed Tory MPs in the county were overwhelmingly in favour of keeping grammar schools.

And seven out of 15 even said they would like to see more built – in defiance of the Conservative leadership, which had ruled out a new generation of the schools.

JUN
2007

● TONY Blair congratulated Kent on Sunday and its readers for its campaign to help the village of Kent in Sierra Leone.

The message of support from the Prime Minister came after KoS delivered a tonne of donated schoolbooks and educational materials to the war-torn country.

● THE Home Office sparked anger and incomprehension over its decision to deport former professional cricketer Hartley Alleyne.

Mr Alleyne was refused a work permit and told to leave after the Home Office ruled his experience did not equate to the two A-levels needed to coach and work as a boarding assistant at St Edmund's School in Canterbury.

His campaign to stay continues backed by Kent on Sunday and Yourcanterbury.

● VETERAN paratrooper Mark Eyles-Thomas recalled the horrors of war in an interview with KoS to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War.

The 42-year-old, from Birling, told of how he

cradled a dying friend on the frozen slopes of Mount Longdon, the frost-covered strategic mount, which barred the way to the capital Port Stanley.

That night 23 paratroopers were killed, including three of Mr Eyles-Thomas' close friends.

JUL
2007

● SOME village pubs could be forced to close by the smoking ban which came into force at the start of July, it was claimed.

The Kent-based head of a national publicans' group warned traditional community pubs that do not serve food were most at risk.

Godfrey Page, chairman of the Guild of Master Victuallers, which represents hundreds of pubs nationally, said the ban would inevitably lead to some closures.

● HUNDREDS of thousands flooded on to the streets of the county to watch the Tour de France make its way from London to Canterbury. On a rare day of good weather in the summer, the event was hailed a massive success, injecting millions of pounds into the local economy.

● THE Sierra Leone blind school choir's concert at Canterbury Cathedral was hailed as a triumph.

Around 700 people watched the magical performance by the choir from the Milton Margai School for the Blind.

The choir received a standing ovation at the finale. Audience members then donated more than £3,000 to the school.

Kent on Sunday organised the concert with the UK charity that supports the school.

AUG
2007

● HOLLYWOOD star Matt Damon praised the director Paul Green-grass, who grew up in Kent.

The Bourne Ultimatum, directed by Greengrass and starring Damon in the title role, opened nationwide at cinemas in August.

Damon told Kent on Sunday: "Paul's style about not interfering in what's happening – it comes out of his documentary film-making."

● AN ARMY sniper revealed for the first time details of a ferocious battle in Iraq involving Kent-based troops.

Sergeant Dan Mills is a member of 1st Battalion, the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (1WPRR), which has its regimental headquarters in Canterbury.

He and a small company of 100 British soldiers held onto a remote base in the town of Al Amarah, in the Maysan province, while fanatical soldiers from the Mahdi Army attempted to dislodge them.

● TV ACTOR Chris Langham was found guilty of 15 counts of making indecent images of children. Langham, of Cranbrook, was later jailed for 10 months, though the sentence was later reduced on appeal.

SEP
2007

● NINETY patients died as a result of contracting the superbug Clostridium difficile at hospitals run by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, according to a damning report from the Healthcare Commission.

The watchdog said there was "a litany of errors" in infection control and criticised the lack of leadership at the trust.

The trust's chief executive Rose Gibb resigned shortly before the report was made public.

● A GROWING number of families were facing unmanageable levels of debt – and experts warned the situation would escalate.



Canterbury College and Sheppey College

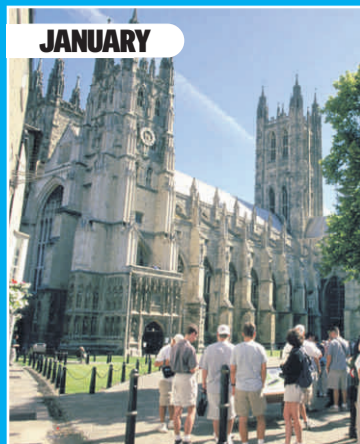
Access to Health and Society Diploma

The Access to Health and Society Diploma at Canterbury College and Sheppey College is a **FREE** course that provides an ideal route into Higher Education for adult learners who are interested in returning to study or for those with few or no formal qualifications.

Starting in **January 2008**, this two term, full-time programme is equivalent to 3 A Levels and is particularly suited to students who want to pursue careers within the health and social services sectors or progress on to an HND in Health and Social Care.

For more details contact Brian Jones on 01227 811287, email b.jones@cant-col.ac.uk or Geraldine Bassett on 01795 581581, email g.bassett@cant-col.ac.uk

CANTERBURY COLLEGE New Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3AJ www.cant-col.ac.uk



Nationally, the amount of people losing their homes to debt was up by nearly a third on 2006's figures as a result of interest rates increasing, the commission said.

● **LORD Deedes'** youngest daughter, Lucy, spoke of her sadness on ending the family's ties with the county after their home was put up for sale.

The former Ashford MP and Daily Telegraph editor, who died aged 94, had lived in Aldington since 1946, but the family home went on the market in September for £750,000.

● **THE** local media scene received a much needed shake-up when KoS Media unleashed nine new local newspapers and a broadband TV channel. The free Your Local series were greeted with enthusiasm by readers across the county, while thousands flocked online to watch and upload clips to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

● **LOCAL** radio presenter Julie Maddocks bid an emotional farewell to her listeners after being axed from her afternoon slot by BBC Radio Kent bosses.

Her dismissal had upset colleagues. One told KoS: "It was not Julie's choice to go and it is incredibly sad."

● **WHEN** Tony Blair bought Gordon Brown an ice cream in Gillingham ahead of the last general election some of his close advisors were "almost vomiting" according to a new Blair biography.

The book, Blair Unbound, added: "They're virtually holding hands".

● **NEARLY** three quarters of all criminal offences committed in Kent go unsolved, figures revealed. The Home Office statistics, released in October, showed detection rates for every type of criminal offence.

Kent police detected 18 per cent of robberies; 49 per cent of violence cases; 29 per cent of sex offences; 16 per cent of criminal damage cases; 30 per cent of fraud and forgery cases and 20 per cent for theft and handling stolen goods.

● **THE** parents of Jake Alderton paid tribute to their loving son who died in the service of his country in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Jake Alderton, a soldier with Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment was killed in a road accident in Helmand Province.

Keith Alderton, his father, said: "If I could get him back tomorrow I'd have him, but what a fitting person to be that special, last soldier to die before Remembrance Sunday."

● **ESTATE** agents said the home informa-

tion packs (HIPs) were causing widespread confusion and should be scrapped.

The Government announced that the packs would be extended so that they cover all properties.

Agents in Kent said that HIPs had created more trouble than they have solved.

● **TWO** bodies were found at a house in Margate. Police discovered the body of missing schoolgirl Vicky Hamilton in the garden of 50 Irvine Drive.

The 15-year-old was last seen in Scotland in 1991. Peter Tobin, 61, has been charged with her murder.

Police later found the body of Dinah McNicol, who was last seen in Surrey in 1991.

● **UNMANNED** police spy planes could soon be patrolling the skies over Kent on the hunt for smugglers, criminals and erratic drivers. Cops are planning to introduce the lightweight drones, currently being used by the military in Iraq and Afghanistan, by 2012.

● **THE** South East England Development Agency was branded a costly talking shop responsible for a "chronic, systematic waste of public money".

The quango, set up by Labour in 1999, was under scrutiny after it emerged that its three-day-a-week chairman, James Braithwaite, spent more than £51,000 on taxis alone last year.

The political commentator Leo McKinstry accused Seeda - which spent £195 million last year - of having "a scandalous contempt for the public purse".

● **AN ARTIST** who is producing an exclusive artwork to be exhibited in Folkestone scooped this year's Turner Prize.

Mark Wallinger won the prestigious award for his work State Britain, a precise reconstruction of anti-war protestor Brian Haw's display that stood in Parliament Square before being taken down by police last year.

Mr Wallinger is one of 23 artists taking part in the first Folkestone Triennial, a cultural event in which public works of art will be installed around the town next summer.

● **THE ARCHBISHOP** of Canterbury made an impassioned Christmas appeal for mankind to care more about the world.

In a special message to Kent on Sunday readers, Dr Rowan Williams referred to recent talks in Bali on climate change. He called on people to help address global warming, even if that meant making sacrifices.

The Bishop of Rochester, meanwhile, was mourning the death of friend Benazir Bhutto.

Appearing at the Winter Gardens

www.leisureforce.co.uk

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WHAT'S ON AT THE WINTER GARDENS

Every Monday Line Dancing 7.00pm - 9.30pm. Every Tuesday Tea Dance with Colin Jay and his music 2.15pm - 4.30pm

FEBRUARY 2008

Saturday 2nd
Mr Wonderful Dancing 7.30pm

Wednesday 27th
3A Entertainments Ltd. presents
Natasha Bedingfield plus support 7.30pm

Friday 29th
2 Outspoken presents
Something Kinda Oooh 2 7.30pm

MARCH 2008

Saturday 8th
The Rat Pack Live 7.30pm

Sunday 9th
All Stars Band 19th Annual Charity Concert 7.30pm

Saturday 15th
Bjorn Again 7.30pm

Sunday 16th
Gordon Clarkson presents Simple Simon Party Showtime 2.30pm

Saturday 29th
Off The Wall 7.30pm

APRIL 2008

Saturday 19th
Disco Inferno 9 8.00pm

Sunday 27th
LDN Wrestling 5.00pm

MAY 2008

Sunday 4th
Rock for Africa Concert 7.30pm

Saturday 11th
Oh Boy It's The Non Stop 60's 7.30pm

Saturday 17th
One Night of Queen 7.30pm

Sunday 18th
Vienna Festival Ballet presents Sleeping Beauty 5.00pm

JUNE 2008

Sunday 1st
T-Rextasy 7.30pm

Tuesday 3rd
David Essex 7.30pm

Sunday 29th
Colin Fry (medium) 7.30pm

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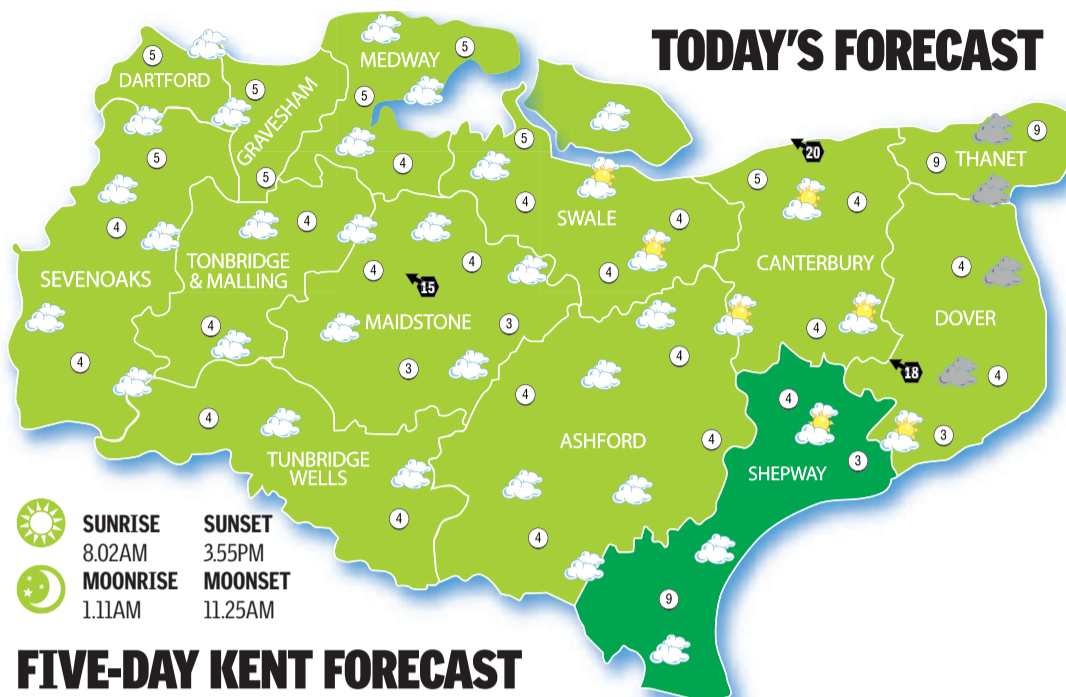
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NEWS IN BRIEF



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	6:04pm	5.1m
	Sunday	-	-
Dover	Saturday	4:21pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:23pm	5.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	4:22pm	6.2m
	Sunday	-	-
Ramsgate	Saturday	4:50pm	4.2m
	Sunday	-	-
Sheerness	Saturday	5:53pm	4.9m
	Sunday	-	-
Whitstable	Saturday	5:58pm	4.6m
	Sunday	-	-



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	8°C	Madrid	7°C
Athens	10°C	New York	8°C
Barcelona	10°C	Paris	8°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	9°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	28°C
Cape Town	33°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	12°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	5°C
Hong Kong	19°C	Warsaw	0°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	20°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C	Gravesend	9°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Canterbury	7°C	7°C	4°C	3°C	7°C	Maidstone	8°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Chatham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Ramsgate	7°C	7°C	4°C	3°C	7°C
Dartford	9°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	Rochester	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C
Dover	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	Sevenoaks	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	5°C
Faversham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C
Folkestone	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	Tonbridge	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C
Gillingham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Tun Wells	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C

Foreign students are in ever-safer hands

ENGLISH language schools across the district have been commended by Kent police for their efforts to safeguard overseas students.

Shepway District Commander, Chief Inspector Luke Dodson, praised members of the Shepway Overseas Liaison Group (SOLG) for their commitment to promoting the welfare of overseas students studying in Shepway.

Speaking at an awards ceremony, where members of SOLG were presented with certificates of accreditation to mark their achievements, CI Dodson said the language schools had made great progress in keeping pupils safe.

"I am pleased that SOLG has gone from strength to strength," said CI Dodson.

"Every member is committed to ensuring the welfare of youngsters who visit Shepway from overseas is a top priority.

"To have a SOLG certificate means students and parents will know their particular language school follows good practice regarding child welfare and protection, and seeks to ensure their stay in the district is safe and enjoyable."

The success of SOLG was due in part to the implementation of Operation Columbus, a national police initiative that had established a number of safe havens for foreign students who were experiencing trouble.

"Young overseas visitors make up a significant proportion of the community," said CI Dodson.

"We are committed to working with our partners in SOLG to make it safe for them. We have seen the number of crimes committed against overseas students fall significantly in the past few years, and this is largely as a result of SOLG and Operation Columbus."

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

CLIVE WIRE



Q What made you want to be a councillor?

A I felt there were issues in New Romney I could get involved with and push along. You go into a council thinking what good can 'I do for the area', and I had a great passion that I wanted mains drainage for New Romney, that was one of my main agendas – to push and see whether we could achieve that. I made the decision to stand as a councillor and having served as a councillor I had the opportunity to serve as mayor and chairman of the council of New Romney, which is a great privilege.

Q How long have you been mayor?

A I am in my second mayoral year, so it has been about 18 months.

Q What have you found in the role that you didn't expect?

A I found the respect you are given when visiting an organisation; you are treated as someone special – I hadn't expected that.

Q What do you enjoy about being mayor?

A Mostly meeting people, I find that extremely rewarding.

Q Has there been anything you didn't enjoy?

A No, I don't think there has. It is hard work and while you are mayor you don't really have your own life – the mayor's role dominates your life, but you accept that when you accept the position of mayor. And last year, being the speaker of the Cinque Ports as well, the amount of civic functions was quite large.

Q What would you say are New Romney's strengths?

A I think that it is the community spirit. New Romney is a small town, it is small enough for people to know each other, and because of that the community spirit is high.

Q A feeling in Shepway District Council is that the whole region is being regenerated, not just Folkestone. How do you see New Romney fitting in to that process?

A New Romney is being developed – we have the industrial estate as part of the cedar development and that is growing in terms of the number of firms and hence the level of employment is growing.

The level of housing had been restricted because of the drainage issues, but I suspect pressures will come to build more and more houses in the area. We can take the development, and we would like to see more quality employment for young people.

Q Are you proud of what you have achieved with the drainage issue?

A Oh yes, extremely proud, we have been waiting for mains drainage in New Romney since 1865 and we have been promised it and promised it and this year we actually achieved it. We worked hard for it and we agitated for it, and we achieved it. The drainage was there for the taking but we had to bring it to the attention of the people who matter, and we did.

Q Tell us about the experience of being the speaker of the Cinque Ports this year

A It is a position that rotates between the head ports, which are Hastings, Winchelsea, Rye, New Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich.

It goes from west to east, so next year's speaker will be the mayor of Hythe. The speakership is held by the town, and because the mayor is the first citizen of the town he becomes the speaker. The Cinque Ports came in being through Edward the Confessor; he wanted ships to carry out defence and invasions.

The only people who could supply him with the ships were the towns along the south coast of England and we supplied ships in his name.

As a result of this he granted us many privileges, we virtually made our own laws, we printed our own money and we had our own courts.

Q & A

Clive Wire, the mayor of New Romney, tells **ROB LIVINGSTONE** why a drainage issue spurred him into standing for the council and why the Cinque Ports hold a very special place in history

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1 Wild about a baby gorilla

Amazing footage of the first gorilla to be born in the wild to reintroduced parents. The film's been released by the Canterbury-based Aspinall Foundation. The baby was born in the Republic of Gabon to wild-born orphans, 10-year-old Lekedi and 12-year-old Marco.



2 Signs that buzzards are back

Some of the most exciting video for bird watchers during 2007 was this film of the Common Buzzard flying above Selsted near Folkestone. The pair were filmed by KOS cameraman Paul Jerreat, proving the birds are re-establishing themselves in the county.



3 Cheers to helping war heroes

Reporter Nick Ames' short film tells how Faversham-based brewer Shepherd Neame has chosen to back the Help for Heroes campaign. All the cash raised from the charity will be going to help soldiers who have been injured in action.



4 Learn how to lay a hedge

No longer a dying art, this video gives a brief introduction into hedge laying and is useful for anyone considering going along to the course in Hawkinge on January 6. You can try yourself or just go along to watch between 10.30am and 3.30pm in Crete Road.



SPORT TV



A futsal coach teaching youngsters football skills

BUSINESS TV



Meet the mums who launched a child-friendly business

PROPERTY TV



Watch videos on the best of the county's property hotspots

LEISURE TV



Author David Hewson discusses his best-selling thrillers

MOTORS TV



Motoring editor Steve Loader on a car for the iPod generation

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Uncovering the county's history

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

BENEATH the Garden of England lie the remains of past civilisations from the earliest period of human history to the emergence of the Kingdom of Kent and beyond.

The archaeological richness of the county is explored in a new book that reveals how each new development in Kent, both major and minor, brings us closer to the past.

The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800 is edited by John Williams who is head of heritage conservation at Kent County Council.

Part of Mr Williams' job at KCC is to ensure the county's archaeological heritage is safeguarded and investigated through the planning process.

With 160,000 new homes planned for the Thames Gateway and areas including Ashford and Maidstone undergoing major growth he has his work cut out.

He said ancient sites were being discovered everywhere that the growth agenda has an impact.

"We have been able to revise our story and get it up to date but the archaeological work is ongoing and we will continue to get major new contributions to the story of Kent.

"Sites are coming up all the time – even since the book has been published there have been some wonderful finds.

"At the A2 south of Gravesend, two very rich early Roman graves were discovered and there were some prehistoric field systems and Anglo-Saxon remains at Ebbsfleet."

Mr Williams told how Kent's archaeology is unique because of the county's proximity to mainland Europe.

Britain used to be a peninsula with the North Downs continuing uninterrupted into Northern France. During later periods of pre-history and carrying on into modern time links across the Channel have continued with the arrival of the Romans and the Normans.

"Kent is one of the key places. There were a lot of Stone Age discoveries in north Kent on the farmland near the gravel of the Thames," he said.

Swanscombe was home to the oldest human

remains in the country until a recent find in Sussex. The skull was from a woman believed have died 400,000 years ago.

Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon discoveries have been made in Canterbury, which has layers of past generations beneath the foundations of modern stores.

The redevelopment of the Whitefriars shopping centre from 2000 to 2003 allowed archaeologists to carry out a large-scale excavation of medieval and Roman Canterbury.

Jewellery and personal items dating from Anglo-Saxon times show that Kentish fashions in the sixth to seventh century were a fusion of Scandinavian forms and other continental mode of decoration.

The use and availability of luxury materials marks out Kent from the rest of England, said Mr Williams.

Grave

Pendants found in a grave in Sibbertswold near Dover include two imported gold coins, garnet and amethyst cabochons, which are gem stones that have been shaped and polished, and decorated millefiori – or coloured – glass.

The pendants and necklaces found unearthed would not look out of place adorning a modern woman, but they are more than 1,300 years old.

Mr Williams said: "The book offers something for both those with a real interest in archaeology and it is hoped that the people with a more general interest in Kent and its past will be attracted by it.

"The joy is its accessibility and that is what we were aiming for."

The book is packed full of colour illustrations and accurate drawings that recreate archaeological sites and digs.

Contributors include Martin Millett, who is Laurence Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge University, a specialist in the social and economic change in the Roman world.

Francis Wenban-Smith, a principal research fellow in the department of archaeology at the University of Southampton, who is currently leading the Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project also contributed.

The book costs £25, published by KCC and Boydell Press from all good bookshops. Order copies from Business Support, Heritage Conservation Kent County Council, Second Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, ME14 1XX.



TREASURE TROVE: Large excavation of medieval and Roman Canterbury (2000-03) at the site of the Whitefriars shopping centre



FINDINGS: Middle Bronze Age gold torcs (rigid necklaces) from the River Medway at Aylesford (can be seen at the Maidstone Museum) (right); (Above) Dress fittings from a grave in Finglesham near Sandwich, which include a Scandinavian square-headed brooch and Frankish bird brooches; (above right) View of the penstocks and wheelpit – parts of an eight century watermill found at Ebbsfleet. It is thought to be the first found of such an early date outside early Christian Ireland

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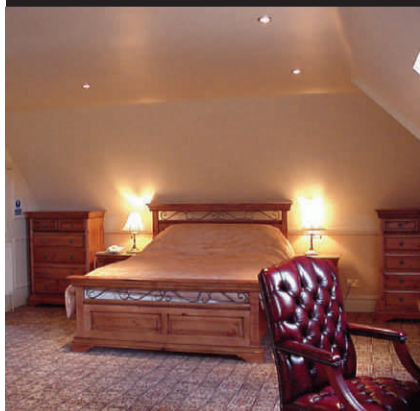
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SHEPWAY SHOPPING

Film board asks for review of decision on Manhunt 2 game

HOPES that video game Manhunt 2 would finally be released in Britain are back in the balance.

The British Board of Film Classification had banned the game because of its violent content, but an appeal last month by manufacturer Rockstar to the Video Appeals Committee had resulted in the VAC ruling in favour of the game's publication.

Rockstar, which also produced the best-selling Grand Theft Auto series, had welcomed the ruling, saying: "We are pleased that the decision of the VAC has recognised that Manhunt 2 is well within the boundaries established by other 18+ rated entertainment."

"We are committed to making great interactive entertainment, while marking our products responsibly and supporting an effective rating system."

But the BBFC announced last week that it would be seeking a judicial review of the appeal as it believed that the decision was based on a misinterpretation of the Video Recordings Act (1984).

The BBFC said: "The BBFC is contesting the VAC judgement because, in the board's view, it is based on an approach to harm which is an incorrect interpretation of the Video Recordings Act."

"The VAC judgment, if allowed to stand, would have had fundamental implications with regard to all the board's decisions, including those turning upon questions of unacceptable levels of violence."

The Video Recordings Act says that video games are exempt from BBFC classification, except if they depict "gross violence against humans or animals, human sexual activity, human urinary or excretory functions or genital organs, or techniques likely to be useful in the commission of offences."

If any of these acts are shown in a computer game the BBFC has to issue an age rating the same way that it rates films.

It's the Top Shop to grab a great bargain

SHOPPERS can save up to £75 on a range of the latest fashions at one of the town's leading high street retailers.

Top Shop is helping customers bring in the New Year with style by slashing prices on jeans, tops and dresses.

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New Year will be a corker thanks to M&S

MARKS AND SPENCER is popping the price of its bottles of bubbly.

The high street giant is offering up to 30 per cent off some champagnes to help New Year's Eve go with a bang.

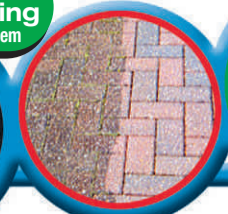
Bottles of cava, rose and other sparkling wines add extra fizz to the offer.

Prices start at £36.40 for four bottles of Vintage 2004 Cava, all the way up to £169 for six bottles of Orpale Grand Cru Champagne.

Meanwhile, pipes of Pringles are available as a two-for-one offer at branches of Somerfield.

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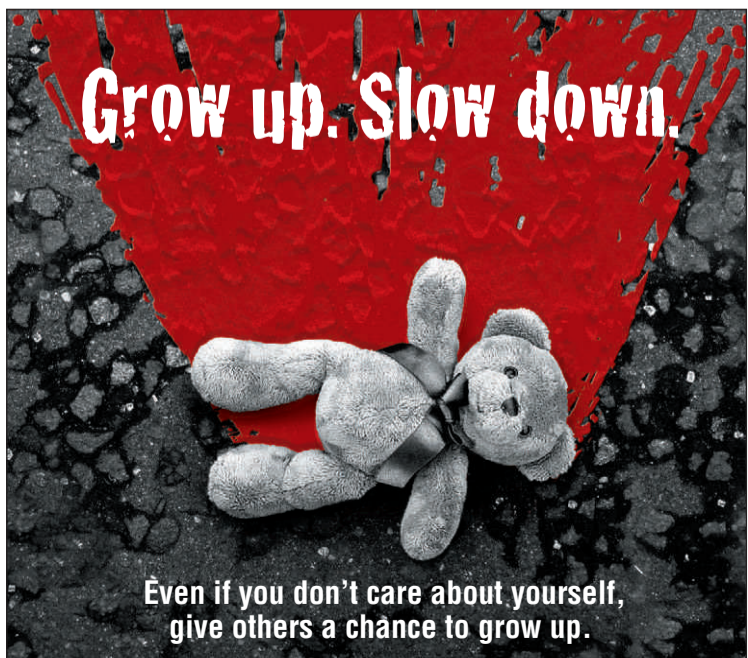
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yourcompetition

WIN! An animal adoption box

YOURLOCAL Newspaper has come together with Kent based charity, The Aspinall Foundation, to give readers the chance to win an animal 'adoption box' complete with a tiger, elephant or gorilla cuddly toy, helping the charity continue in their aim to protect and breed endangered animals and return them to their natural habitat in the wild.

"Adopt in a box", encourages children to learn more about the charity's animal protection and conservation programmes, as well as raising funds to support this work.

This is your chance to win your own "adopt in a box". Normally the cost is £25 which includes either a cuddly Tugar, the tiger, housed at Port Lympne or Jara, the elephant, who lives at Howletts, both of whom are featured on BBC TV's Roar or Djéké who lives in Africa. An entry ticket to either park, an adoption certificate, plus fun stuff for your mobile or PC is also included.

The Aspinall Foundation supports and manages Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, home to more than 1,000 animals and 90



different species.

The parks house the largest captive group of western lowland gorillas in the world; the largest breeding herd of black rhino outside of Africa and the largest collection of African elephants in Europe. The parks are at the forefront of breeding rare and endangered species including clouded leopard, rusty spotted cats, gibbons, drills, black and white ruffed lemurs, hunting dogs, lions and tigers.

This work includes two gorilla rescue and rehabilitation projects in Gabon and Congo.

As well as joint conservation projects in Cambodia, South America and Tanzania, by way of rescue and rehabilitation, particularly of rhinos and primates.

To purchase one of these amazing adoption boxes please visit www.totallywild.net or call 01303 234199.

For your chance to win Tugar, Djéké or Jara,

simply answer the following question: **What are the names of the three animals that you can adopt in a box?**

Send your answer on a postcard or sealed envelope with your name, age, address and phone number to Adopt in a Box comp, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR Closing date is January 28, 2008.

1. This competition is not open to employees (and immediate families) of KOSmedia or any other company associated with it.

2. Entries which are altered, illegible or not in accordance with the rules will be disqualified.

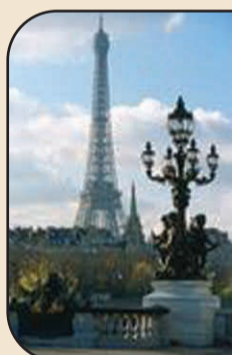
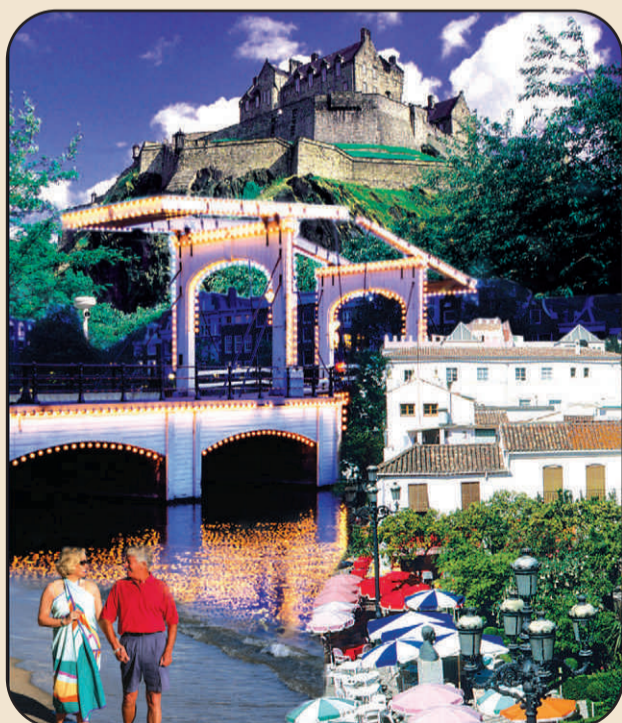
3. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries lost or damaged. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

4. Entries must be received by noon on January 28, 2008 and names of the winners will be published in this newspaper. There is no cash alternative to the prize.

The Aspinall Foundation would like to keep readers updated with its work, including sending out the free magazine, 'WildCry'. Please write on your entry 'NO UPDATES' if you would prefer not to be updated.



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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

LIVELY UP YOURSELF

Lively female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555

LOVE TO LAUGH

Full-time mum, 26, loves pubs, clubs, cinema, family days out, GSOH, likes socialising, relaxing, looking for honest, loyal, fun, romantic person who's a N/S. Box 900347

AMAZING ACE!

Confident female, 28, 5ft8, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, into most things in life, seeks genuine guy for friendship and more. Box 434229

MAJESTIC IN MARGATE

Single mum, 28, 5ft1, brown hair/blue eyes, I'm new to Margate, and I'm looking for a guy with a GSOH. I enjoy going out, socialising etc. Box 431105

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

Black, beautiful, curvy, single mum, 31, enjoys outdoors, cooking, home-life, cosy nights in, eating out, cinema looking for tall, sincere gentleman for friendship/relationship. Box 432283

TRY NEW THINGS

Mum of 1, I'm 5ft4, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH. I like keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559

R U THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, East Peckham, nr Tonbridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship leading to more. Box 433107

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

African lady, 33, brown eyes, likes socialising, music, pubs, cinema, seeks male for friendship and more. Box 431328

BETTER DAYS

Sincere female, 35, 5ft3, brunette, likes the gym, staying in, seeks mixed race, tall male for friendship and more. Box 433256

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Single parent of 4 kids, 35, 5ft6 and long hair with blue eyes, looking for friendly guy for friendship and maybe more. Box 900447

TRUST MATTERS

Independent, professional female, 35, 5'7", fit, GSOH, enjoy travelling, cinema, looking for a like-minded, honest and loyal male to share life with. Box 901771

MADE FOR YOU

Hi, 35yr old bubbly, fun-loving female, GSOH, looking for friendship, maybe LTR. I enjoy most things in life. Box 430911

YOURS FOREVER!

Active, affectionate female, 35, 5ft3, blonde, blue eyes, likes cinema, walking, cycling, swimming, watching wrestling, WLTm tall, dark & handsome bloke. Box 430932

SECURE FUTURE

Honest, caring lady, attractive, from Tunbridge Wells, 37, hazel eyes, curvy, 5ft6, with a GSOH, many interests, clubs, cooking, cosy nights. Looking for stocky male, 35-45. Box 424364

MISSING MALE COMPANY

Chatty female, 36, 5'4", single mum, blonde, slim, likes pubs, clubs, going out, having fun, seeks male, for fun nights out and giggles. Rochester. Box 372889

FUN AND LAUGHS

Hi, I'm Joan, 39, 5'8", slim/med build, brown hair, green eyes, looking for male, with GSOH, for good times. Box 424732

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152892

LOVING TOUCH

39yr old single mum, own house, 5'7", brown hair, seeking a kind-hearted man for companionship. Box 433637

GET IT TOGETHER

Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 899694

NEVER SAY NEVER

Decent 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating & having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664

NOT FOOTBALL CRAZY

Divorced, affectionate lady, 40, large build, 5'6", love staying in, cinema, looking for a thoughtful male to share good things in life, leading to LTR. Box 430332

LOVE TO MEET YOU

Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy. I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464

FOREVER YOURS

I'm Caroline, 42, single mum, likes having fun, eating out, wine bars, swimming, looking for someone for something meaningful. Box 430952

TAKE A CHANCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

WHERE R U?

Sincere, reliable woman, 43, long blonde hair, blue eyes, community worker, loves horse riding, travelling, cooking, looking for my soul mate. Box 428689

FOOTBALL FANATIC

Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384

SMOOTH MOVE

Kind, caring, genuine person, 43, love music, outdoors, good conversations, looking for friendship initially and maybe more. Box 898448

BE HERE NOW

Melvie, 44, looking for an understanding, sensitive man. I enjoy music and being adventurous. Box 431913

AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Warm, radiant, witty, intelligent, attractive, black female, Christian, 44, likes music, jazz, travel, art, restaurants, theatre, seeking a cultured, N/S, intelligent, solvent gentleman. Box 433075

A FINE ROMANCE

Pleasant female, 43, medium/large build, blonde/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, wining, seeks sincere male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 429071

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTm N/S man to share things with. Box 429682

A NEW FUTURE

Busy, energetic female, 45, 5ft2, blonde, blue eyes, size 12, professional, likes swimming, holiday, relaxing, walking, seeks down-to-earth guy. Box 428633

TIME TO SETTLE DOWN

Romantic woman, 45, likes the good things in life, WLTm a special, good-looking man to complete the jigsaw. Box 434511

NEW ADVENTURES

Blonde female, 40+, attractive, fun-loving, GSOH, enjoy cinema, eating out, music, dancing, WLTm attractive companion for days out, holidays, possible romance. Ashford. Box 906594

NICE AND LOVING

44yr old female, 5'5", brown hair, slim/medium build, enjoys pubs, clubs, if you are out there, give me a ring! Maidstone Box 413448

BE ORIGINAL!

Sincerity, honesty, and intelligence, is that just too much to ask for? With a hint of cheekiness, I'm 46 from the Maidstone area. Box 156956

KNOW HOW TO TREAT A LADY?

Blonde haired, attractive female, 46, 5ft4, slim, GSOH, seeking good-looking, slim, kind, trendy male, 35-45, with a GSOH, and fantastic personality. Sheerness Box 432618

TIME TO SETTLE

Attractive female, 47, 5ft5, slim, black origin, practising Catholic educated professional, divorced, likes reading, classical music, gardening, seeking genuine, honest, loving male. Ashford Box 434548

STIMULATING COMPANY

Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTm nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829

READY TO START AGAIN

Hi, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WLTm compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 432992

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving & outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out & staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833

BRIGHTEN UP MY WORLD

Loving and loyal 49yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-55 for friendship. Box 909974

CANTERBURY CONNECTION

Attractive, blonde woman, 5'4", 49, enjoys the gym, cooking, cinema, theatre, travel and restaurants, seeks male for friendship. Box 398091

EVENING PRIMROSE

Primrose, 51, divorced with 3 children and 2 grandchildren. I'm 5ft2, with dark hair, looking for someone for companionship. Box 433580

ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?

Loyal, bubbly and affectionate, attractive lady, 51, dark hair, enjoy clubs, nights in, love animals, seeking a like-minded gent for happiness. Box 433585

FEEL THE MAGIC

Slender, 51, long dark brown hair, brown eyes, 5ft6, well groomed, very easy-going and tactile, GSOH, enjoys socialising, nights in/out, eating out, cinema walks Box 434052

LOVE IS IN THE HAIR!

Sue, 51, slim, blue eyes, brunette, ladies hairdresser, looking for someone special. How about you? Box 431904

DO YOU SCRUB UP?

Modern, professional, classy, loyal female, early 50s, 5'4", blonde hair, medium build, enjoys countryside, WLTm gent, 45-58, smart appearance, for friendship, possible relationship. Box 825500

TAKE IT AS RED-HEAD

Female, 51, 5'6", attractive, redhead, green eyes, seeking professional, male soulmate, 45-55. West Kent. Box 477686

INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Bright, bubbly lady, 52, 5'4", blonde hair, recently divorced, own home and car, enjoy cinema, eating out, drinks, looking for companionship and friendship. Box 419966

COUNTING ON YOU

Lovely, honest lady, 52, enjoy walks, cycling, travel, WLTm sociable gent to share interests and possibly leading to LTR. Box 399420

SMART MOVE

Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854

SAVING ALL MY LOVE

Young, 57yr old modern female widow, slim, enjoys nights in/out, socialising, seeking honest, reliable man for friendship, love, affection and TLC. Box 920739

BEST FRIENDS

Friendly female 56, likes most things in life, cinema, clubs, pubs, WLTm tall, sincere, caring male, for friendship and good times. Box 320642

NOT ASKING FOR MUCH

Fun loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903560

DON'T PASS ME BY

Young 61 year old, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, very happy-go-lucky, likes dancing, walks, eating in/out. I'm very adaptable, looking for a LTR. Margate Box 434424

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

Widowed woman, 61, no ties, positive outlook, kind nature with GSOH, like the usual things and would like to find a male counterpart. Box 431210



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KEEPP DANCIN'!

Brunette lady, 61, looking for a LTR, friendship first, any age considered. Interests: dancing walking, socialising, cuddling! Margate. Box 432246

LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG

Useful, intelligent, caring female, 62, young looking/acting, like walks, music, cooking, seeking sensitive, caring, uncomplicated male, N/S, perhaps a dog owner, for friendship first Box 434345

LADY IN WAITING

Cuddly, loving lady, 64, who loves nice conversations, staying in, wining/dining, loves animals, gardening, WLTm considerate, faithful gent for companionship. Box 427579

GENUINE GENTLEMAN ONLY

Kind-hearted, 63yr old lady, looking for genuine, down-2-earth male to share the simple things in life and enjoy life with. Ramsgate. Box 410983

LADY IN WAITING

Caring, loyal and young-at-heart lady, 65, 5ft, blonde hair, looking for someone nice, friendly, who likes eating out, restaurants, holidays, for company. Box 899242

BOWL ME OVER

Attractive, bubbly lady, 60s, enjoys good food/wine, bowls, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine male, 60+, for friendship first possibly more. Box 428798

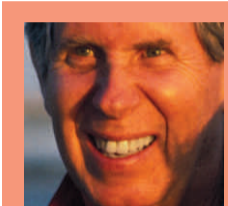
Women seeking women

PASSIONATE SCORPIO

Cuddly, buxom female, 46, blue eyes, very feminine, loves music, animals, reading, writing, stars, very genuine, meals in/out, seeking boyish female, who's loving and caring Box 433152

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Capricorn female, 48, 5ft7, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, caring, animal lover, into DIY, sports, reading, WLTm someone in Maidstone area Box 434547



MEN'S SPOTLIGHT

DON'T STOP ME NOW

Medway based male, 32, blond hair, green eyes, slim, 6ft, likes motorsports, nights out, dancing, seeking someone to have a good time with, maybe relationship Box 427825

MARGATE MAN

Single male, 32, easygoing, 6ft2, dark hair/blue eyes. Looking for female, 22-34, who likes to have fun, for friendship, possibly relationship. Box 431481

REAL MAN

36yr old honest, kind, caring, single male, blond hair, 6ft, like walks, cinema, nights in/out, enjoy family life, WLTm like-minded, genuine female. Box 430440

THE SWIM OF THINGS

Single dad of 2, 35, 6', blond, blue eyes, enjoys cycling, swimming, country walks, seeks female for friendship and more. Box 404402

FINALLY FOUND YOU

Good-looking male 35, 5'8", no ties, enjoys pubs, restaurants, holidays, bowling, theme parks and more, seeks petite female, to share good times with. Ashford Box 98029

R U 4 ME?

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company and conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH

Attractive, caring man, 37, very loyal, genuine, down-to-earth, from East Kent, many interests, it's about who you're with, not what you're doing. Box 423435

TRUSTWORTHY

Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build. I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with GSOH. Box 423437

FANCY THIS

Jason, 38, 5ft8, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cycling, seeks genuine female for friendship and good times. Box 433326

DELIGHTFUL DARREN

Darren, 38, loving, caring & trustworthy, 5ft8, medium build, enjoys most things in life, seeks fun-loving lady to enjoy life with. Box 434234

MAKING SWEET MUSIC

Romantic male, 38, 6ft, blue eyes, medium/muscular build, enjoy socialising, cosy nights in, music, looking for a loving, fun-filled female for happiness. Chatham. Box 433795

HAPPINESS IS...

Good-looking male, 36, short spiky brown hair, likes dancing, socialising, films, WLTm nice, loyal, honest female, 30-42, for a relationship. Maidstone. Box 401597

MOVE CLOSER

Friendly male, 37, enjoys the usual things in life, seeks curvy, nice female, for friendship and more. Box 359467

SPORTS MAD

Single male, 39 years old, 2 sons, very interested in all kinds of sports, seeking a lovely lady Box 899774

A CERTAIN SMILE

Peter, 38, 5ft11, slim, enjoys music, cinema, dancing, restaurants, seeking loving female, for friendship leading to more. Chatham. Box 425364

COULD WE BE MAGIC?

Single male, 40 years old, 5ft4, medium build, dark hair, brown eyes, looking for a bubbly, adventurous female, who's fun to be with Box 433540

A SPARKLE

Hi, I'm a down-2-earth male, 40, 5'7", medium build, green eyes, loves outdoors, sports, beach walks etc, WLTm an out-going female for good times. Box 899004

WHERE WILL IT GO?

Outgoing, laid-back, genuine guy, 40, looking for a similar female, 25-45, for perhaps a LTR Box 434398

MAN OF MEANS

41yr old male, 5'10", GSOH, slim/medium build, short brown hair, WLTm a bubbly female, 25-48, for fun and more. Box 434468

TWO'S COMPANY

Thoughtful male, 41,

yourshepwayblogger



Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Shepway...

Forget those year-round sales and go for cashback

ANSWER me this please: How can there be sales on in the High Street 52 weeks a year?

It doesn't make sense. Nothing has a real price any more. There are just sale prices which are really the real price. And if it isn't on sale, it'll be two-for-one. Or buy one, get one free. What's that all about?

If you went to buy, say, a new house, and the estate agent said: "We're doing two for one at the moment," well, you'd smell a rather large rodent wouldn't you. If you're not convinced, picture yourself in a car showroom: "New car sir? You're in luck, buy one get one free." I don't think so.

But in the High Street women fall for it every day of the week. How many times have you heard your woman say: "I'm just nipping into town to do some shopping" and you nearly choke on your Pringles because she hasn't even unpacked the bags from the last trip.

Yet she beams: "Because there's a sale on." Well, there's always a sale on. But still she goes and still she comes back with another load of old toot that you never imagined, not even in

your wildest dreams, that you'd ever need.

There it is, with the till receipt stapled to the carrier bag shouting 'sucker'. Because it was a bargain. In the sales. As if owning one bread-making machine that has never been used isn't bad enough, imagine having two of them.

I don't want to exaggerate, but if the first bread maker has never been out of the box, what is the chance of it wearing out so it needs replacing with the second brand new one? There's a formula to work out probability, but as I'm no mathematician I'd say the chances are slim.

Yet there's your beloved, grinning from ear to ear because she's bought it for you and saved a small fortune in the process. Now the alarm bells are really ringing because if she's bought that to keep you happy, just imagine what she's gone and bought for herself. I've yet to see a woman with more than two feet but the way they buy shoes you'd think they were trying to kit out a centipede. And they need the dress to go with the shoes and the bag to go with the dress. None of it is quite the right size, but by heck it was all a bargain.

It'll be a few weeks before the full extent of

her bargain hunting becomes apparent but you'll stumble across it all in due course. In the bottom of the wardrobe. Under the bed. Don't be surprised to hear the loft ladder being put through its paces after a little trip to the shops.

But when you ask: "What's all this then?" the reply will bear no relation whatsoever to the contents of the bag you've just discovered. Her jaw will tighten like she's got tetanus. She isn't going to say she needed a new this, that or the other. She'll reply: "It was in the sales."

The way this is going, we'll soon have such a bad credit rating from the purchase of surplus to requirements kitchen paraphernalia (don't even mention ice-cream makers) that we won't be able to afford to put food on the table. But we'll be quids in and have enough unwanted clothes and accessories to stock a small boutique.

Think about it next time you see a 'sales' sign and be thankful that us blokes have the sense not to fall for it. We go for cashback.

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TALK TIME

BRYN PARRY

The organiser of Help for Heroes tells Yourshepway about the initiative to improve rehabilitation facilities for injured soldiers



Why did you start Help for Heroes?

Emma and I were privileged enough to meet the wounded at Selly Oak. We walked into a ward of thirty or so soldiers, sitting or lying on their beds, in T shirts and boxers and they were wounded. They were not lying there under white sheets like in the movies, they were on top of the bedclothes and they were missing arms and legs. One man was missing both his legs and his neck was in a brace. He was consoling the son of another soldier who had died in the incident in which he had nearly died; it was profoundly moving. We came home determined to do something, difficult not to want to do something when you meet these people who are so brave, modest and humorous. And so Help for Heroes was born.

The response has been amazing, are you surprised by the scale of public feeling this represents?

No. People are basically good, decent and caring. Sure, we get bound up in our lives, swept along with the current of jobs, families, stress, hassles. We have not become bad; we are just busy. But we have noticed an amazing generosity of spirit coming through Help for Heroes. By stressing that we are non political and non critical, we are enabling people to divorce their lack of support for the wars from their feelings of admiration of those who are fighting them. We can show our support, by donation, for those Servicemen and women who join the Armed Forces to serve their country and are wounded doing their duty. And this has been borne out by the donations flooding in. In nine weeks we have raised nearly £1.5 million! Surely that is unprecedented. The goodwill is infectious, the desire to make this work, to make a difference. People are enjoying catching this virus, this desire to help, to do something really great, to buck the system.

How did Shepherd Neame get involved?

I love the Spitfire advertising which is very much the serviceman's humour so I contacted Shepherd Neame, had a chat and then they flew with it!

Get running and help our charity

Readers in the South who are keen to take part in an exciting new road race – the Bupa London 10,000 on May 26 – now have the chance to join in through some of Meningitis UK's Golden Bond places.

This new race will begin and end in St James Park and much of the course will follow the proposed routes of the 2012 Olympic marathons. Independent places are now filled, but runners still have the chance to take part in this great event through our Golden Bond places.

National charity Meningitis UK has a single focus – to find a vaccine to eradicate all forms of meningitis. This year we launched our Search 4 a Vaccine Campaign, which aims to raise £7 million over the next seven years to fund research into finding a vaccine for meningococcal group B – the most common form of meningitis in the UK. This accounts for almost 90 per cent of all cases and there is currently no vaccine.

If you would like to take part in the Nationwide Bath Half Marathon and help us achieve our vision, contact Emily on 0117 373 7373 for a sponsorship pack.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Emily Knight
Community Fundraising Officer
Meningitis UK

Climate change is a big con trick

What is all this fuss about climate change? The weather is exactly the same as it's always been – rainy and wet. We have had hot summers before and rainy ones like the last one.



JOIN ONLINE DEBATE

Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

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In my view it is just another way of raising money via taxes. I don't believe anything this Government says anymore.

Bob Ellis
By email

Stop trying to make us buy more

One of the most ridiculous things

at this time of year is the sales.

We have just got over Christmas and all the furore which accompanies buying gifts and now we are being bombarded with useless demands to buy more.

Why can't there be a lull in this constant urge to buy.

Chris Decker
By email

Waste of precious police time?

We see so many police on the roads at this time of year – all looking to make an easy collar by targeting motorists.

So few people drink and drive these days as it is just not part of the culture of today.

So wouldn't they be better off doing something useful – like catching criminals.

After all that is what they are there for.

Rosemary Jones
By email

Thieves' shame

Thieves stealing small amounts of lead are putting lives at risk – how thoughtless must they be.

To steal something is bad enough – but when it puts people in serious danger than it becomes positively disgusting.

Have these people no shame?

Sam Phillips
Dover

My dark thoughts

Aren't the Christmas lights in Folkestone town centre rubbish?

It seems that every expense has been spared in giving people a festive time. Why can't the town do anything properly?

If we are to celebrate the festive season – let's do it properly.

James Newsome
Folkestone

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WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IN 2008?

Here is just a small selection of courses starting soon near you:

Course	Starts	Price
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Photography - Digital	09/01/08 at 12.30pm	£69
Pilates Style Exercise	09/01/08 at 6.35pm	£16
Yoga Mixed Ability	10/01/08 at 9.45am	£72
Music Making	23/01/08 at 2pm	£37
Spanish Further Steps	23/01/08 at 7pm	£75
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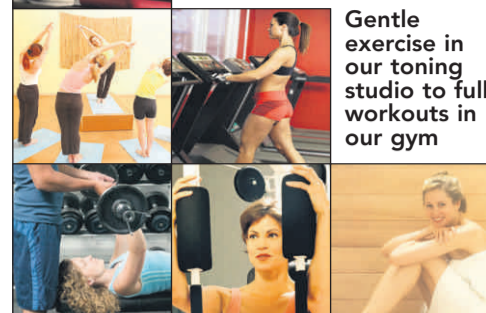
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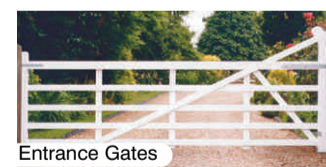


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JETHRO

Wednesday, January 9
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



ONE of the country's funniest storytellers will bring his tales of Cornish life to Kent next week. Jethro, the world's most hilarious Cornishman, is still selling out theatres across the country after 32 years in the business.

Hear about the latest adventures of Jethro and his legendary mate Denzel in the latest show.

Born in a small Cornish village, Jethro was destined for a career as a carpenter before he was discovered by the local operatic society.

With a decent singing voice, he began gigging in pubs, but started telling jokes when his voice dried up one night.

Soon audiences were calling for stories rather than songs – and Jethro had found his vocation.

Despite his tremendous success, he still lives on a farm in the West Country and runs a hugely popular comedy club in Devon.

The show, which contains adult humour, starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £18/£17.

To book, call the box office on 0870 4000 890 or visit the website at www.leascliffhall.co.uk.

NEW SEASON

Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe



A GREAT new season of laughter, drama and music awaits at the Tower Theatre this spring.

Classic family tale Beauty and the Beast gets the season underway in February, as the Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society (FHODS) presents its first pantomime at the theatre. The society promises a great story about the triumph of good over evil, with humour, music and clean family fun.

Hard-Hearted Hannah And Other Stories is part-gig, part-jukebox and part-theatre, with a different story every night accompanied by live Jug Band music.

Inspired by audience choices, the show could feature Hard-Hearted Hannah, the notorious vamp of Savannah, Smokey Joe or some other character from the American South.

The farcical goings-on in a French village near the German border will provide the action for A Bedful of Foreigners, while The King and I brings an unforgettable love story to life.

Find out more about this year's shows online at www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk.



PANTOMIME FUN

Ongoing
Theatres across the county



FOR festive fun and some real Christmas spirit, nothing beats a good pantomime, so here's our round-up of all the great family shows on offer this Christmas:

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury: Aladdin. Starring Shaun Williamson, Stephen Mulhern and Dave Lee. Ends on Sunday, January 20. Tickets £8.50-£21.50. Phone 01227 787787, or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Orchard Theatre, Dartford: Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. Starring Wendy Peters. Ends Sunday, January 13. Tickets £13-£21. Phone 01322 220000, or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells: Cinderella. Starring Barney Harwood and Sarah Thomas. Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £10-£19.50. Phone 01892 530613 or 532072, or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone: Sleeping Beauty. With Beau Brady and Kate Sheridan. Ends Sunday, January 6. Tickets from £6.95. Phone 01622 758611, or visit www.hazlitttheatre.co.uk.

Central Theatre, Chatham: Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. Starring Shane Lynch, Sheila Ferguson and Claire Huckle (left). Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £12.50-£17.50. Phone 01634 338338, or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone: Jack and the Beanstalk. Starring Gabrielle Bradshaw and Claire Coultry. Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £10, concessions available. Phone 0870 4000 890, or visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk.

SHEPWAY LEISURE

Get ready to rock with Surf Dude Grandad

SURF Dude Grandad will be performing live in Folkestone this weekend.

The band cites Kings of Leon, Stereophonics, The Killers and AC/DC among its influences, along with old punk and classic rock.

Surf Dude Grandad is due to appear at The Frenchman in Christchurch Road on Saturday, January 5.

For more information about the gig, call the pub on 01303 259815.

Cycle packs showing the ride way to get fit

FOR those who have resolved to get fit this year, help is at hand from the Romney Marsh Countryside Project.

The RMCP has produced the Romney Marsh Meanders cycle pack, featuring five self-guided routes ranging from 10 to 42 miles.

Each cycle route is beautifully illustrated by local artists and should provide plenty of motivation to get out in the fresh air.

The pack costs £3.95.

Visit the website at www.rmcp.co.uk for details about how to order.

The Gate Inn is home to Realm of fine music

FOR an evening of great live music, head down to The Gate Inn in Dymchurch Road, Hythe.

Realm 79 will be performing at the pub on Friday, January 4.

The local four-piece play a selection of pop and rock songs.

For details about the gig, call the pub on 01303 260086.

Find out more about Realm 79 at their website www.realm79.co.uk.

Jack Pound invites you to an open stage night

TALENTED musicians and singers are invited to take part in an open stage night at The Butt of Sherry in Hythe.

Jack Pound runs the open stage night on alternate Thursdays, with the next event on January 3.

To find out more about the event, call the pub on 01303 266112.

For information about Jack, visit his website at www.jackpound.com.

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

ST TRINIANS (12A)



Girls just wanna have fun in Oliver Parker and Barnaby Thompson's revival of the naughty hockey stick-wielding minxes. St Trinian's is frothy and undemanding fun, interspersed with snappily edited montages set to songs by Shampoo, Sophie Ellis Bextor and Girls Aloud. Stars Rupert Everett, Colin Firth and the brilliant Russell Brand as Flash Harry.

BEE MOVIE (PG)



Co-written by Jerry Seinfeld, who also voices the lead character, computer-animated adventure Bee Movie is a fitfully amusing romp that peddles many obviously puns and gags: "A perfect report card - all bs!" Seinfeld brings his dry humour to his role while Renee Zellweger, Matthew Broderick and co offer lively support.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (U)



Alvin And The Chipmunks treats its audience like fools, keeping dialogue to a minimum the plot is slow. Kids might giggle at the sight of one chipmunk noisily breaking wind in Dave's face, but laughs are few and far between.

Taking the leap into adulthood

■ BY BEN FALK

ELFIN-like Natalie Portman is renowned for her intelligence as one of the few young actresses in Hollywood who not only went to college - but to Harvard.

She also has a reputation for being mature beyond her 26 years, an attitude honed growing up on movie sets.

When you meet Portman you immediately see she is articulate and well-spoken, informed and possessed of great beauty.

But blink your eyes and look again and you'll see a kid, a girl in her mid-20s who looks 16, and who peppers her conversation about poverty in Africa and her charity work with dozens of "likes" and "whatevers".

It's refreshing that in the battle-hardened world of Tinseltown, where tweens have business managers, she hasn't forfeited her youth, which is why she loved making new film Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium.

"I thought it was such a wonderful thing to put out into the world," she says of the film. "It's so positive and in such a unique way."

Unique indeed. Natalie is the shop assistant at a magical toy shop run by the impossibly-old Dustin Hoffman, who finally decides to pass on the business, Willy Wonka-style, to her.

"I could really relate to the character too," she admits.

"It was something I could really understand - that transition into adulthood."

Ah yes, the old passage from child actor to bona fide movie star. It's something that Natalie continues to grapple with, ever since making her debut aged 12 as a precocious wannabe hitwoman in Leon.

Her role as Queen Amidala in the second Star Wars trilogy straddled the divide between

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CHILD-LIKE: Natalie Portman enjoys being young

MR MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM Certificate U

they're saying are party animals are not either.

"In some ways, it's a self-fulfilling prophecy - they follow you less, so they catch your mistakes less."

In other words, she's more than happy to continue without making it into the pages of Heat. Next up is period drama The Other Boleyn Girl, in which she plays doomed queen Anne Boleyn with Scarlett Johansson as her sister.

She's also currently shooting a remake of the Danish hit Brothers, alongside alleged former beau Gyllenhaal.

Prestigious, arty projects for sure, but to float Natalie's boat it's got to be something she is passionate about.

youth and grown-up, but by semi-abandoning films and focusing on her studies, it seemed for a while that she wasn't interested in being a woman in Hollywood.

She has a degree in psychology, speaks fluent Hebrew and her work has appeared in several scientific journals. Nonetheless, she now says it would be tough to give up acting.

Portman doesn't discuss who's she dating or dated, but names like Jake Gyllenhaal, Hayden Christensen and Gael Garcia Bernal have all come up.

"From a young age, my parents taught me not to talk about private stuff because as soon as you start putting it out there, it's like fair game," she says.

But as for why she hasn't fallen into the trap of Britney and co, she adds: "I think the press branded me as one thing."

"They branded me as the good kid. But none of us are all good or all bad. The kids who

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Ski resort puts families first

■ BY HANNAH STEPHENSON

IT WAS a chilling thought taking my two children on their first skiing trip.

If just one of them didn't take kindly to the slopes I could face a week of tobogganing, ice-skating or languishing in over-priced mountain cafes trying to keep a little one entertained, while waiting for the others to come down the mountain.

However, as both my husband and I are keen skiers, we agreed to tread on thin ice for our first family ski-trip to Flaine, in the northern French Alps between Geneva and Chamonix.

It forms the centre of the spectacular Grand Massif, one of the largest linked ski areas in France, offering 265km of snowsports over 133 runs, with 78 ski lifts connecting Flaine with the neighbouring resorts of Samoens, Les Carroz d'Araches, Morillon and Sixt Fer a Cheval.

At 1,600m, Flaine's not quite as high as other French resorts, such as La Plagne or Courchevel 1850, but because it lies within a dramatic bowl, the snow remains longer than at other locations.

With 52 red runs, 52 blues, 15 greens and 14 blacks, there's enough skiing for all abilities, but the resort comes recommended as a child-friendly destination, with plenty of nursery slopes to keep the youngsters amused.

Flaine centre, it has to be said, is more concrete than picture postcard, having been purpose-built in the 1960s. But my seven and



LASTING: Being located in a bowl means the snow lasts for longer in the ski resort of Flaine

eight-year-old children didn't notice the architecture when they were having fun in the snow – and there was plenty of it.

We needn't have worried about them taking to the sport. Once we had hired the boots and skis the children couldn't wait to have a go, and as they could ski virtually from the door of

our hotel, we didn't need to walk far for the fun to begin.

There are several free lifts at the base of the resort, which accommodate two green runs ideal for beginners, so we didn't buy a ski pass for our children on the first day just in case they didn't like it.

But after an afternoon finding their snow legs, they were hooked and could soon tackle the chairlift with an adult.

Ski school is a must for young beginners – to learn the basics of snow-ploughing, distribution of weight on the skis and, most importantly, how to stop. They also make new friends in the lessons and it gives parents time to ski on their own.

However, during peak season ski school can be crowded, so we organised a couple of private lessons. A two-hour lesson for two children in Flaine with ESF cost 69 Euros (about £49) and was worth it – they progress quicker and have individual attention which can make it safer.

I met several families during my stay who had driven to Flaine, taking the Dover-Calais ferry and then sharing the eight-hour drive.

They chose to drive partly because it's cheaper than a package and partly because they were self-catering and could cram provisions for the week in the car.

The last thing I want to do at the end of a day on the slopes is cook, so we opted for a package holiday with Crystal at the Club Hotel Totem, where you can ski to the door.

For a three-star hotel, the food was fabulous. The menu changed daily and we were offered choices ranging from sea bass and hake, to venison, roast lamb and vegetarian stir fries.

FACT FILE:

Time difference	UK + one hour
Currency	Euros approx 1.4 to £1
Capital	Paris
Region airport	64.1 million
Language	French
Religion	Roman Catholic
Climate	Alpine in mountain regions

Holiday details

Hannah Stephenson travelled courtesy of Crystal Ski, which offers seven nights' half-board plus afternoon tea, coffee and cake and free wine or soft drinks with evening meals at Club Hotel Le Totem from £1,248 for a family of four (two adults, two children) this winter, including return flights ex-Gatwick and transfers.

Adult prices begin at £479, with special rates for children (2-11), and up to three free child places per family. Regional departures from 10 UK airports from £10. Supplement ex-Manchester is £26 and ex-Glasgow £39. Free ski and boot hire for one child for each adult pre-booking skis and boots. Six days ski/board hire costs £91 per child, £124 per adult. Lift passes £147 per adult, £107 per child, free passes for under-fives. Child care at Club Hotel Le Totem can be pre-booked. Crystal reservations: 0870 402 0293 or online at www.crystalfamilies.co.uk.



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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

No17

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CROSSWORD

No17

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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Worrying troubled man has rest (10)
6 Blackleg seen initially at advice centre (4)
9 Perfect pattern (5)
10 Strip of peat removed (4)
11 Worn block? (4)
13 Unable to include odd-one-out that is not special (15)
14 Another Tory gain? It's a twist! (8)
16 Go and join up again (6)
18 Leave some of the trade parts (6)
19 Preparation for a form of surgery (8)
22 Scottish tourist attraction that possibly has never been seen (4,4,7)
24 Foundation for a vegetable (4)
25 Turn at home to enter (2,2)
26 After having breather, I obtained loincloth (5)
27 So repeatedly mediocre (2-2)
28 Used another worker (6-4)

DOWN

- 1 Food unhesitatingly produced in Germany (7)
2 Didn't start game on hilltop (5)
3 Looking after number one on holiday? (4-8)
4 Previously encountered, say, figure of speech (8)
5 One tucking in may tuck it in (6)
7 Principal officiant Bert clean away (9)
8 Mike hidden on stand is cause of anger (7)
12 Cover vase that had gone first when all mixed together (12)
15 Criticise airman with debts who is grasping (9)
17 Order nothing from unit of special service brigade (8)
18 Lady aggravated old sore (7)
20 Prepared a hot meal? (7)
21 A prop on the beach (6)
23 Simpleton galloped round islands (5)

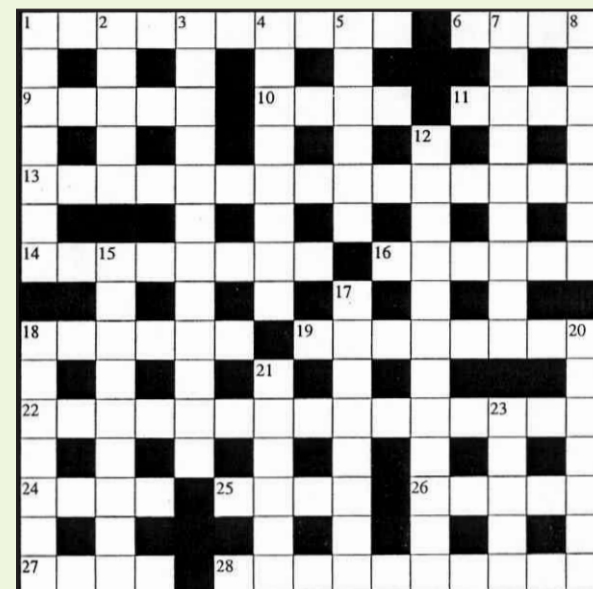
QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Green ___ (liqueur) (10)
6 Season's yield (4)
9 Prohibited (5)
10 Whitish (4)
11 Eyot (4)
13 Make an indiscretion (3,4,4,2,2)
14 Squirmed (8)
16 Large gun (6)
18 Fall asleep (3,3)
19 Immaculate (8)
22 Capable of being switched (15)
24 Forest plant (4)
25 Locality (4)
26 Inn (5)
27 Tier (anag.) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Dupe (4-3)
2 Monastic head (5)
3 Road (12)
4 One selling overseas (8)
5 Pink fish (6)
7 Ringing sound (9)
8 Town in Lancashire (7)
12 Win the most applause (5,3,4)
15 Restless (9)
17 Southern European (8)
18 Newspaper worker (7)
20 Furtiveness (7)
21 Town in northern Scotland (6)
23 Tribe (anag.) (5)



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SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS No17
ACROSS: 1 Chatterbox 6 Crop 9 Wait up 23 Say-so
Kirk 19 Addenda 20 Acumen 21 Toolmaker 15 Chitchat 16 Alfresco 17 Labrador 6 Fiftily 7 Clout 9 Fred 14 Address 3 Misery 4 Parole 5 Parka DOWN: 1 Upright 2 the same token 26 Poltroon 27 Coda 22 Reset 24 Reclaimed 25 By 12 Tash 13 Polluted 17 Kneehole 18 Redistributing 10 Guerrilla 11 Utter ACROSS: 1 Chatterbox 6 Crop 9 Wait up 23 Say-so
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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

TRUST your instincts with regard to an unusual money-making venture. Your New Year resolution must be to make more use of your management skills and to push yourself forward in situations where you would prefer to take a back seat. Spending more time with friends will prove relaxing during the early part of 2008.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

YOUR dynamism could attract the attention of an older intellectual. This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. The two of you make an odd but compelling pair. Your creative abilities are the secret to your career success in early 2008. Your New Year resolution should be to launch a home improvement project before early March.



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

THIS year looks potential packed. You know just how to get the best out of your team. One of your New Year resolutions must be to improve your management skills. Your schedule will be very full between now and early March. Answering phone calls, text messages, and emails will demand much of your attention.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

YOUR expertise and experience makes you a desirable candidate for romance. A friend could set you up on a blind date. One thing is for sure: the chemistry between you will be fizzing. You'll be spending money as fast as it comes. While all of this financial activity makes you nervous, these expenditures are necessary to fuel future ventures.



GEMINI (May 22 - Jun 22)

YOU could get an exciting bonus as thanks for a job well done. Cutting the household budget will give you greater financial security. It's better to have reserves in the bank than luxuries in your living space. Your love life undergoes a blissful honeymoon. Your New Year resolution must be to take more exercise.



CANCER (Jun 23 - Jul 23)

THE chance to study an unusual subject could come via a business or romantic partner. The more you know, the more desirable you get on the job market. Falling in love with someone who is much older or younger is a distinct possibility this week. Promise yourself you will make the most of the opportunities coming your way in 2008.



LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

A BRILLIANT idea for conserving resources is worth following. Assuming a prominent position at work could also put extra money in your pocket, but it will involve added responsibility. Your love life will sizzle with excitement for the next month. If you've already got a partner, the two of you could be blessed with a child.



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

A BUSINESS or romantic partner's unusual outlook gives you an idea for a creative project. This year brings an opportunity to work on a more prominent level and you will love to be acknowledged for your expertise. Spending more time at home gives you a wonderful feeling of security. Prepare for your career to take flight.



LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

A CHANCE to work from home could triple your productivity. Take the helm of a domestic matter this week. Trust your instincts, particularly with regard to assigning responsibilities to relatives and roommates. Your New Year resolution must be not to accept second best from those around you.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

A FLIRTATIOUS conversation puts a spring in your step over the New Year celebrations. A group effort highlights your speaking or writing ability and you may be asked to act as the team's representative. More money for luxuries could come pouring in between now and late January. Take this opportunity to spoil yourself.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21)

IDEAS for making your budget stretch farther will give you more freedom. Your star is on the rise so don't be surprised if you're given a raise or praise in recognition of your many and varied talents. If you're not happy in your current job, your New Year resolution should be to look around for a new position with more responsibility.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

TWO unrelated events could result in an exciting breakthrough. Teaming up with a respected expert could help you turn this brainstorm into a profitable business. Keep a love affair under wraps or meddling mischief makers will spoil the fun. Your New Year resolution should be to embark on an intense exercise regimen.

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Last week's solutions

EASY

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yourtelevision

PICK OF THE WEEK

BBC one

THURSDAY: DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE (10.35pm): Bruce Willis teams up with Samuel L. Jackson in the best of the Die Hard films. Fast paced action and laughs.

FRIDAY: JAM & JERUSALEM (8.30pm): Jennifer Saunders' star-studded gentle comedy sees Tash prepare for an assault on the Glastonbury Festival – without a ticket.

BBC TWO

THURSDAY: LEAD BALLOON (9.30pm): Jack Dee stars in the last of an excellent series with a call from Hollywood gives Rick something to think about.

FRIDAY: CULTURE SHOW SPECIAL - SIGUR ROS (11.35pm): Another chance to catch the Icelandic band and learn the stories behind their hypnotic tunes.

itv

THURSDAY: MIDSUMMER MURDERS (3pm): John Nettles' Barnaby investigates the murder of a wealthy landowner's wife in the village where they drop like flies.

FRIDAY: THE FUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET (8pm): Matthew Kelly talks to stars of Coronation Street and looks back at some of their favourite scenes.

4

THURSDAY: THE KIDNAPPING OF ELIZABETH SMART (10pm): Documentary on the 14-year-old kidnapped for nine months from Salt Lake City and discovered with a man who claimed to be the Messiah.

FRIDAY: GREATEST COMEDY CATCHPHRASES (9pm): Three hour romp through the nation's favourite comedy quips.

five

THURSDAY: GET CARTER (10pm): Michael Caine stars in the classic gangster thriller from 1971.

FRIDAY: WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN (8pm): Pure brute force on show in the final of the contest in Anaheim, California. Presented by Martin Bayfield.

Has the time come to evict reality TV?

■ BY CHRIS THOMSON

IT SEEMS like a lifetime ago, but it was a mere 12 months since Jade Goody's fragile career as a celebrity dimwit exploded amid the racism row of Celebrity Big Brother.

Along with the equally dumb Jo O'Meara (ex-S Club 7) and Danielle Lloyd (ex-Miss Great Britain), their bullying of Bollywood's Shilpa Shetty sparked headlines worldwide.

And while Channel 4 bosses initially rubbed their hands with glee at the increase in viewing figures, they quickly found those same hands holding their heads in sorrow as sponsors jumped ship and the annual New Year goose decided it was not going to lay its golden egg in 2008.

But with Celebrity Big Brother 2008 pulled altogether in the wake of the media furore which followed last year's series, Channel 4 have opted to see in the New Year with yet another twist on its money-making reality theme. Enter Celebrity Hijack.

The house is still there. The housemates will be thrown in. A cash pot of £50,000 on offer. But rather than the all-singing, all-dancing version going out on prime time, Celebrity Hijack will be a more muted affair.

While the opening show will be on tomorrow on Channel 4, it will then become the property of the channel's digital sister station E4.

A sign TV bosses are no longer convinced of the clout the Big Brother concept still packs? Or simply testing the water for yet another mainstream assault on reality TV addicts? As ever, the power will lie with the viewer...after all, you decide whether to watch it or not.

In a nutshell, Celebrity Hijack will drop into



WATCHING THEM: It was just a year ago that Jade Goody and friends shocked the world with their harsh treatment of Shilpa Shetty on Celebrity Big Brother

the house 'gifted' young individuals, all aged between 18 and 21 (gifted with intelligence or the ability to show-off, remains, as yet, unclear). Then a host of celebrities will take turns to be Big Brother, setting tasks and causing, so the details of the show boast, mischief with the inmates. They will even be let loose in the behind-the-mirrors camera runs. A nation can hardly wait.

Dermot O'Leary – fresh from his underwhelming role as X Factor host – will host the live opening show. The series will be his Big Brother swansong after confirming he is to present Big Brother's Little Brother no more.

In truth, he was once a breath of fresh air – but as the housemates for the main show became thicker and thicker in each passing series, so his light dimmed. The words 'sow' and 'silk ear' spring to mind.

His nightly 7.30pm E4 slot for the new show will allow him one last chance to try and recapture past glories before he departs.

But at stake is something far more important: the public's view on reality TV.

Surely now, after eight years of it, we have had enough?

The crowning of X Factor winner Leon, and Big Brother's, er, can't even remember his name, underlined once and for all that our apparently endless appetite for the format is surely over. They take 'forgettable' to a whole new stratosphere. We have gorged at its table, been violently sick, and now never want to see another one again.

It's cheap and cheerful telly – no doubt. And the money generated by callers having their say has long since injected huge sums into the bottom line of the TV companies involved. But with each show bringing with it new controversies over phone votes, the trust of the viewer is diminishing rapidly. Not to mention the fact the talent these shows are unearthing really is worthy of picking up a dictionary and checking the true definition of the word.

In truth, hopes of relegating such shows to digital channels – such as the case with Celebrity Hijack – will not make financial sense; they rely too much on as wide an audience as possible in the hope a decent fraction pick up the phone.

Perhaps it will be genuine viewer power – via the use of the off switch – which will evict them all from our schedules.



CELEBRITY HIJACK

Channel 4, January 3, then E4 nightly

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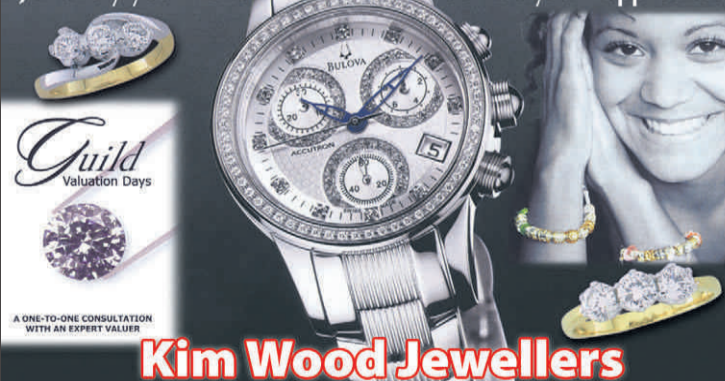
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IT MIGHT not have made Christmas number one like the band was hoping, but the Trouser Trumpet's effort is still definitely worth a look.

All I need for Christmas is You is the Trumpet's latest song, and has been downloaded numerous times from the band's website www.trousertrumpets.co.uk.

Performing regularly around Kent, including the Canterbury Festival in October, the Trumpets are a charismatic act who never fail to pull a crowd.

A multi-instrumental blend of The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band, Spike Jones, Frank Zappa and Ian Dury, you can see them here on Yourkenttv, performing in Canterbury last year.

YOU can upload your own favourite video, your band, or any music that you would like to share by logging on at Yourkenttv.co.uk.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR BAND ON THIS PAGE OR HAVE A GIG YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIST, SIMPLY LOG ON @ yourkenttv.co.uk AND FOLLOW THE EASY-TO-USE INSTRUCTIONS

LIVE AND LOUD



INVICTA'S XMAS FACTOR: A clip from Invicta FM's Xmas Factor 2007 final choir carol concert, held at the Dockside Outlet in Chatham on Monday, December 17, 2007.



PROTEST: Hey Eddie is an anti-war protest song that has been downloaded around the world, drawing attention to the alledged lack of care for pyhsically and mentally wounded soldiers.

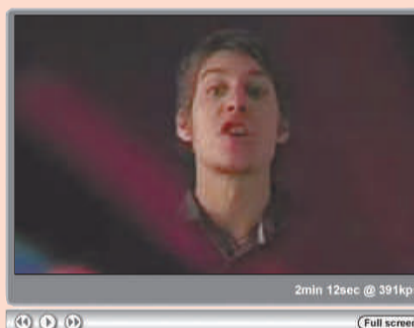
LOCAL TV ONLINE



C'MON ZYGO: Led Zygo, Kent's newest Led Zeppelin tribute band cover one of their idols' lesser known efforts. Eddie Cochrane's C'mon Everybody, covered by Led Zeppelin in their early days.



SOUL BROTHER: Rik Waller's Mighty Soul Band play a Winter Warmer at the Westgate Pavilion as a rehearsal for their tour. This is a selection of highlights from the show.



STRANGE SOUNDS: Very experimental Canterbury band Stoftype perform their song Sgt Danko. The video was made on April, 2007, and is ... quite strange.



TUNE IN: Not strictly a music video... there's not a lot happening if we're honest, but you can still listen to the tune, created by Kent electronic artist, Yerk AKA Nick Burkinyoung.



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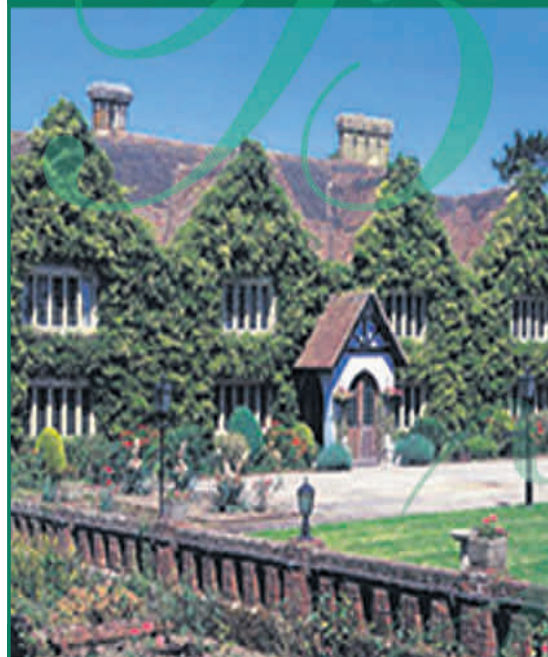
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PROPERTY NEWS

Protect yourself against burglars

WHILE you splash out on gifts for loved ones this year, security experts are warning householders to take extra care to prevent falling victim to burglars.

Although such crimes are few and far between, Home Office statistics show Kent is one of the UK's top 10 regions most likely to be affected by burglary – with research suggesting you're more likely to be burgled just after Christmas.

Jill Willis, market development manager at Norwich Union Insurance, said: "Christmas is a time to relax and catch up with friends and relatives, but the threat of burglary during this period can't be ignored.

"Our research shows that three quarters of British people are not taking any extra care to protect their homes and property. By taking a few simple steps, homeowners can help to avoid the trauma burglaries cause."

Key recommendations include keeping presents out of view from opportunist thieves, asking trusted neighbours to keep an eye on your property, using timer switches for lights, and not forgetting to double-check all windows and doors before you leave the house.

Get on the ladder by buying with a buddy

MAKING those first steps onto the property ladder can be a tricky business, especially with house price to income ratios now higher than ever.

One solution is to join forces with a friend and pool your resources to buy a property together and share the monthly outgoings.

The concept of 'buying with a buddy' is becoming increasingly common and websites have sprung up to help would-be home owners pair up with like-minded individuals.

Caron Hutchins, sales manager for Redrow Homes (Eastern), says: "A new home is great for first time buyers as it comes with a 10-year Buildmark warranty and requires little or no maintenance and none of the renovation or repair that goes with buying a run-down terrace. New homes also tend to be more energy efficient, which makes for fewer arguments over the heating bills."



Picture: KNP

BUILD ON IT: The coming year looks set to be the perfect time to sell your land, as developers aim to meet the targets for affordable, eco-friendly and family homes

Land yourself a good deal on your open space

■ BY CHRIS THOMSON

THE new home market is set for an upturn next year – with eco-friendly homes playing a key role in driving the sector upwards, according to property experts.

And the role of housing associations in snapping up land to build much-needed affordable housing in the county is set to provide more choice for those looking to snap up a new-build property.

This year has seen prices for new homes continue to rise and the market remained buoyant through the summer before experiencing a slow down towards the end of the year.

On the supply side, due to a dwindling stock of good brownfield sites available for building, there has continued to be fierce competition

between developers over sites, which in turn means land prices have stayed strong.

According to chiefs at RPC Land and New Homes, the situation should shift during 2008.

Managing director, Peter Randall, said: "This year the market has been quite tough for developers, but they are still very hungry for land and desperate to purchase good sites and that will continue into 2008 and beyond.

"This year has seen the new homes market start well and then slow down. I expect that to change around in 2008, with perhaps a slow start followed by an upturn later in the year.

I believe next year we will see more housing associations involved with developments in Kent to meet affordable housing numbers and

I think eco-friendly developments will also become more common.

"There is also a growing trend in some part of the county for planners to look for more family housing, reversing the trend over the past few years for higher density developments such as flats. I would expect developers to follow suit and look to provide more two, three and four-bedroom properties.

"With competition still strong over sites for development, land prices look set to be maintained. This, coupled with the axing of tax exemptions on empty commercial premises, means 2008 could be a wise time to cash in on land for development. It's best to talk to an expert to get the best design for a plot."

RPC Land has offices at Dartford, Chatham, Maidstone, Ashford, Tonbridge and Haywards Heath.

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- Five Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms
- Grade II Listed Building, Garage

New Romney Office 0845 3709 717



HAWKINGE £239,995

- 4 Bed Semi Detached, Sitting Room
- 2 Bathrooms, Kitchen/Dining Room
- Good Size Garden & Driveway

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



FOLKESTONE £239,995

- 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Kitchen/Diner, Garage & Attractive
- Landscaped Gardens

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



ST MARYS BAY £229,500

- 2/3 Bedroom Home In Pleasant Location
- Garden Backing Onto Local Waterway
- Double Glazing, Heating, No Chain

New Romney Office 0845 3709 717



LYMPNE £224,995

- Recently Refurbished Property
- 2 Beds, En-Suite
- Contemporary Kitchen & Bathroom

Hythe Office 0845 3709 717



DYMCHURCH £219,950

- 2/3 Bedroom Refurbished Property
- Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Stunning Views Marsh Views

Hythe Office 0845 3709 717



FOLKESTONE £215,000

- 3 Bedroom Family Home, Conservatory
- Redecorated 2007
- Garage & Driveway, Garden, NO CHAIN

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



NEW ROMNEY £215,000

- 3 Bedroom Family Home
- 2 Reception Rooms, Double Glazing
- Central Heating, Not Far From High Street

New Romney Office 0845 3709 717



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47 offices across Kent & Sussex

Local offices:
**Folkestone • Hythe
New Romney**



NEW ROMNEY £214,950

- Rarely Available!
- 2 Bedroom Home, Well Stocked Garden
- Loft Room, Hobby Room, Garage

New Romney Office 0845 3709 717



DYMCHURCH PRICE RANGE £210,000-£220,000

- 3 Bedroom Detached In Popular Location
- Fitted Kitchen, Central Heating
- Double Glazing

New Romney Office 0845 3709 717



DYMCHURCH £205,000

- 3 Bedrooms, Views Over Open Farmland
- In Need Of Refurbishment
- Central Heating, Double Glazing

Hythe Office 0845 3709 717



STANFORD NORTH £199,950

- No Onward Chain, 3 Bedroom
- Secluded Position, 2 Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom

Hythe Office 0845 3709 717



LYDD £199,950

- Spacious & Modern 3 Bedroom Home
- Tucked Away In A Quiet Location
- Rural Outlook & No Onward Chain

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HAWKINGE £197,500

- Stunning 3 Bedroom Family Home
- Superb Farmland View To The Rear
- Pleasant Cul De Sac Location NO CHAIN

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



LYDD PRICE RANGE: £195,000 - £200,000

- Well Presented 3 Bedroom Home
- Play Room/Study, Lounge/Diner
- Quiet Location, Central Heating, No Chain

New Romney Office 0845 3709 717



HAWKINGE PRICE GUIDE £190,000 - £205,000

- Superb 3 Bedroom Village Home
- Downstairs Bedroom & Bathroom
- Ensuite To Bedrooms 1 & 2

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



HYTHE £184, 950

- 2 Bedroom Retirement Apartment
- Walking Distance To Hythe Sea Front
- Fitted Shower Room, Communal Parking

Hythe Office 0845 3709 717



DYMCHURCH PRICE: £184,950

- 2 Bedrooms, In Need Refurbishment
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Conservatory, Front & Rear Gardens

Hythe Office 0845 3709 717



FOLKESTONE £184,000

- 3 Bedroom Family Home,
- Sitting Room & Kitchen/Diner,
- Conservatory, Garden & Driveway.

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



BURMARSH £179,950

- Immaculately Presented 3 Bedroom
- Refitted Kitchen, Refitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Central Heating

Hythe Office 0845 3709 717



CHERITON £175,000

- Sought After 3 Bedroom Home
- DGL, Central Heating, Cheriton Location
- VACANT POSSESSION!

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



HYTHE £174,995

- 2 Bedrooms, New Shower Room
- Front & Rear Gardens, No Onward Chain
- Located On The West Side Of Hythe

Hythe Office 0845 3709 717



CHERITON £164,995

- Superb 2 Bedroom Home
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Sought After Cul-De-Sac Location

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



LYDD £164,950

- Bigger Than It Looks!
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions
- Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage

New Romney Office 0845 3709 717



FOLKESTONE £154,995

- Superb Sized 3 Bedroom Home
- Double Glazing, Central Heating
- VACANT POSSESSION!

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



FOLKESTONE £153,500

- Superb 2 Bedroom House
- Sought After Harbour Area
- CHAIN FREE!

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



FOLKESTONE £142,500

- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating

Folkestone Office 0845 3709 717



NEW ROMNEY £139,950

- Just Off New Romney High Street
- 2 Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- With No Chain, Gardens, Garage En Bloc

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ST MARGARETS OIRO £925,000

- 7 Bedrooms With 4 Ensuites
- Double Garage With Room Above
- Sought After Location

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DOVER PRICE RANGE £500,000 - £550,000

- 4 Bedrooms
- Approximately 1 Acre Plot
- Heated Indoor Swimming Pool

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RIVER PRICE RANGE £240,000 - £260,000

- 3 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Level Rear Garden
- Lovely Outlook/Garage & ORP

Dover Office 0845 3709 715



WHITFIELD £230,000

- 3 Bed Detached Bungalow/Great Location
- Conservatory, Glazing & Central Heating
- Garage & ORP/No Chain

Dover Office 0845 3709 715



DEAL PRICE: £229,000

- 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Garage, Drive, Front & Rear Gardens
- No Forward Chain!

Deal Office 0845 3709 715



DEAL PRICE RANGE: £190,000 - £210,000

- 2 Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Loft Conversion Potential, Garage, Garden
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

Deal Office 0845 3709 715



LYDDEN PRICE RANGE £185,000 - £200,000

- Exceptional 3 Bed Family Size Home
- Block Paved Driveway For 2 Vehicles
- Outstanding Hillside Views

Dover Office 0845 3709 715



AYLESHAM £189,995

- Extended 4 Bed Semi-Detached Home
- Ground Floor Cloakroom, 2 Receptions
- Rear Garden & Parking For 4 Cars

Dover Office 0845 3709 715



ELMS VALE PRICE RANGE: £165,000 - £175,000

- Lovely 3 Bed Semi
- Beautiful Hillside Views
- Peaceful Cul-De-Sac Location

Dover Office 0845 3709 715



DEAL PRICE RANGE: £140,000 - £155,000

- Spacious 2 Bedroom EOT
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Lounge/Dining Room & Approx 64' Garden

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DEAL PRICE RANGE: £135,000 - £145,000

- 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace!
- Completely Re-Furnished!
- Good Size Rear Garden!

Deal Office 0845 3709 715



DOVER PRICE RANGE £130,000 - £140,000

- Lovely 2/3 Bed Home
- Lovely Garden Of Approx 50ft
- Desirable Location

Dover Office 0845 3709 715



WALMER PRICE RANGE: £120,000 - £130,000

- 1 Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Close To Beach Promenade, High Street
- NO FORWARD CHAIN!

Deal Office 0845 3709 715



DOVER PRICE RANGE £120,000 - £130,000

- Beautifully Presented 2 Bed Home
- Kitchen, Bathroom & Shower Room
- Double Glazing & Central Heating

Dover Office 0845 3709 715



DEAL £94,995

- 1 Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Parking, Shared Garden
- Near Deal High Street, NO FORWARD CHAIN!

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Local offices:
Dover • Deal



DEAL PRICE RANGE: £75,000 - £90,000

- Ground Floor Studio Apartment
- Parking, No Forward Chain!
- First Time Buy Or Buy To Let Opportunity

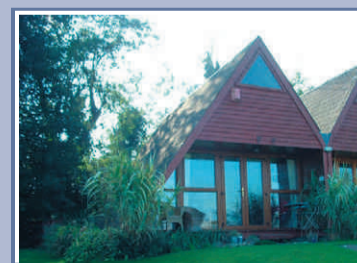
Deal Office 0845 3709 715



WOODNESBOROUGH £74,950

- 2 Bedroom Retirement Property
- Top Floor Flat Of A Converted Vicarage
- Views Gardens & Farmland To The Rear

Deal Office 0845 3709 715



KINGSDOWN OIRO: £57,000

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Home!
- Fully Furnished! No Forward Chain!
- Located In Kingsdown Park!

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Tel: 0845 3709 710

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

MIDI MPVs

VAUXHALL pioneered a new people carrier segment with the original Zafira – the midi seven-seater. The Zafira was handier than a full-size people carrier like the Ford Galaxy or Renault Espace yet able to carry two more people – likely to be kids though – than a standard compact MPV such as the Renault Scenic. With all rear seats folding flat to the floor it could also better an estate car and challenge a van for load-lugging capacity. No wonder it soon spawned imitators such as the two excellent rivals also featured here.

TOYOTA VERSO



TOYOTA quickly realised its previous five-seat Corolla Verso was just not cutting it in a growing market for mid-sized MPVs and axed it in favour of the current seven-seat version after just two years – an awesome demonstration of the Japanese giant's determination and production powers. Now known simply as the Verso, the result is one of the best MPVs in the class: stylish, highly flexible, generously equipped and featuring some good engines, plus built-in Toyota reliability and quality.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA



YOU could almost hear the motor industry gasp when the Zafira was unveiled. OK, the styling was never exciting, but Vauxhall's motoring equivalent of a Swiss Army Knife came with brilliant flexibility as standard thanks to the Flex7 system that allowed the rear two rows of seats to be folded flat into the floor, to create various permutations or a massive load area. The original has been replaced by an even better model, but it is still a star buy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VW TOURAN



BEWARE bargain priced Tourans – these are usually examples with just five seats rather than the more usual seven, an asset which helps Tourans to have one of the slowest depreciation rates in the MPV sector. The Touran is a good drive for a people carrier, refined and well-built to VW's high standards even if the styling inside and outside is a little bit bland. The car counters this minor gripe through some excellent engines including VW's renowned turbodiesels.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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07 07 SEAT LEON 2.0 TDI REF SPORT SILVER	SOLD
07 56 SEAT ALTEA XL 1.9 TDI STYLANCE EX DEMO	£13695
07 07 SEAT ALTEA 1.9 TDI STYLANCE GREY DEMO	£13495
07 07 SEAT LEON 1.9 TDU STYLANCE SILVER MET	£12995
07 57 SEAT LEON SPORT 1.9 TDI SILVER DEMO	£12995
06 55 MAZDA 5 TS2 2.0 DIESEL 7 SEATER GREY	£11995
07 07 SEAT TOLEDO 1.9 TDI STYLANCE EX DEMO	SOLD
04 04 SEAT ALHAMBRA SX TDI 1.9 7 SEATER BLUE	£11495
04 54 SEAT ALTEA 2.0 TDI SPORT AUTOMATIC	£10995
05 05 SEAT LEON 1.9 TDI SE 6 SPEED SILVER	£10295
06 56 SEAT ALTEA 1.6 REFERENCE A/C 5 DOOR	£9295
07 07 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 STYLANCE 5 DOOR BLACK	£8995
06 06 SEAT IBIZA DIESEL SPORT 1.9 5 DOOR	SOLD
05 05 RENAULT SCENIC MAXIM 1.6 VVT 5 DOOR	£8995
04 54 SAAB LINEAR 1.9 TID DIESEL SALOON	£8995
07 07 SEAT IBIZA STYLANCE 5 DOOR YELLOW	£9195
04 54 SEAT ALTEA 1.9 TDI STYLANCE 5 DOOR	£8695
05 05 FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI DIESEL LX 5 DOOR	£8495
05 05 VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AUTO EST 5k miles	£7495
04 04 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO HDI EXCL SILVER	£7495
05 55 VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 S 5 DOOR BLUE	£6595
04 04 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO LX LOW MILEAGE	£5995
05 55 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE 3 DOOR BLACK	£5995
06 06 KIA PICANTO LX AUTO 5 DOOR	SOLD
04 53 FORD FOCUS 2.0 ZETEC CLIMATE 3 DOOR	SOLD
05 05 SEAT IBIZA 1.2 SX GREY METALLIC	£5895
04 54 VOLKSWAGEN LUPO 1.4 S SILVER 3 DOOR	SOLD
01 51 FIAT PUNTO ELX JTD DIESEL 3 DOOR	£3795



AUDI TT QUATTRO 1.8
20VT 225PS 2-door Coupe .
.....£12995



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12V S 55PS 3-door
Hatchback£6595



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1.9 130PS 5-door MPV
.....£11795



06 06 KIA Picanto LX
Automatic 5 door£5995

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02 02 LEXUS IS300 CROSS NAVIGATOR ESTATE
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Automatic, met blue, fully loaded, 60k miles, fsh, blue hood, grey leather£9,995



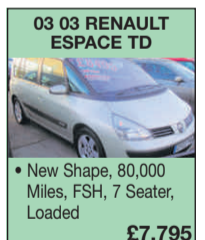
00 W HYUNDAI TRAJET
7 seater 2 litre Petrol 60k Miles FSH Met Red Wine Aircon PAS C/Locking£3,295

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02 02	LEXUS IS300 CROSS NAVIGATOR ESTATE	Sat Nav, Full Leather, Fully Loaded, Met Silver, 60k, FSH,£9,795
03 03	RENAULT ESPACE TD	New Shape, 80,000 Miles, FSH, 7 Seater, Loaded£7,995
01 X	MERCEDES C320 AVANT GARDE	60k, FSH, Alloys, E/W, C/L, PAS, Met Silver£7,995
02 52	VW BEETLE 1.9 DIESEL	60k, FSH, Electric Windows, PAS, Central Locking, Out standing Yellow.....£6,995
00 W	BMW 328 COUPE	Met Blue, Automatic, Fully Loaded, 95k miles, FSH, 18" Alloys, Full Black Leather£6,995
04 54	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SXI 5 Door	New Shape Metallic Black Alloys, E/W, PAS, C/L, A/C.....£6,995
02 02	PEUGEOT 206CC	Met Silver 60k Miles FSH Leather Electric Windows Central Locking PAS.....£6,395
06 56	DINLI QUADZILLER	450 R 550 mls/reverse, road legal, Met Silver.....£3,595
00 W	HYUNDAI TRAJET	7 Seater 2 Litre, Petrol, 60k Miles, FSH, Met Red Wine, Aircon, Central Locking, PAS£3,395
03 03	ROVER 45 1.6 SALOON	Met Silver 60k Miles FSH Leather Electric Windows Central Locking PAS.....£3,295
93 K	BMW 320 Coupe	Met Silver 60k Miles FSH Leather Electric Windows Central Locking PAS£1,495



00 X MERCEDES C320
60k, f/s/h, Alloys, e/w, c/l, pas, Met Silver£7,995



03 03 RENAULT ESPACE TD
New Shape, 80,000 Miles, FSH, 7 Seater, Loaded£7,795



02 02 PEUGEOT 206CC
Met Silver 60k Miles FSH Leather Electric Windows Central Locking PAS£6,395

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NEW SHAPE SWIFT 1.5 GLX 5DR A/C	M\BRONZE	100	10/07	£8,995
NEW SHAPE SWIFT 1.5 GLX 5DR A/C	SILVER	32000	06/05	£7,395 SOR
JIMNY 1.3 JLX ESTATE, C/LOCKING, OPT 4X4	SILVER	17000	03/05	£5,995
WAGON R + 1.3 PAS C/LOCKING LTD EDITION	MET\BLUE	25000	05/05	£5,795
WAGON R + 1.3 GL PAS A/C	MET\BLUE	29000	03/03	£4,695
WAGON R + 1.3 GL PAS C/LOCKING	MET\GREY	29000	09/04	£4,995
WAGON R + 1.3 GL PAS C/LOCKING	RED	42000	01/11	£3,295
IGNIS 1.5 GL 5DR AUTOMATIC PAS	MET\BLUE	4000	10/05	£5,595 SOR
IGNIS 1.3 GL 5DR PAS C/LOCKING	YELLOW	28000	11/01	£3,595
ALTO 1.1 16V PAS 5DR C/LOCKING	RED	29000	07/04	£3,695
ALTO 1.1 16V PAS 5DR C/LOCKING	SILVER	8000	09/04	£3,895
OTHER MAKES				
VX CORSA 1.2 LIFE 3DR PAS C/LOCKING	MET\GREEN	32000	11/04	£4,995
RENAULT CLEO 1.2 EXPRESSION 5DR PAS	MET\BLUE	41000	11/03	£4,495
KIA PICANTO GS 5DR 1.0 PAS C/LOCKING PAS	SILVER	19000	06/05	£4,495
FORD FIESTA LX 1.4 5DR A/C PAS	MET\BLUE	30000	09/02	£4,595
PEUGEOT 206 LX 1.4 A/C 5DR PAS	MET\GREEN	63000	12/01	£3,995
SEAT AROSA 1.0 S PAS C/LOCKING	MINT GREEN	34000	12/02	£3,895
VW PASSAT SE 20V TURBO 1.8 PAS	MET\RED	67000	01/11	£4,995
RENAULT MEGANE RT SPORT 5DR 1.9 DTI	MET\BLUE	47000	07/98	£2,795
HONDA ACCORD 2 LIT VTEC SE 5DR PAS	SILVER	55000	04/01	£3,995
FORD KA 1.3 PAS	RED	19000	03/04	£3,995
FORD FIESTA FIREFLY 1.25 PAS	RED	11000	09/04	£5,295
ROVER 45 IMPRESSION 3 PAS A/C 5DR	MET\BLUE	16000	05/03	£3,995
SEAT IBIZA 1.9TDI 3DR PAS C/LOCKING	RED	1500	09/07	£9,495
FORD FINESSE 12.5 3DR PAS C/LOCKING	MET\BLUE	33000	09/04	£4,495
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Lacetti 1.6 SX 5dr • Cooled glove box • 15" Alloy wheels • Air conditioning.

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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Kalos and Lacetti £350). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £199. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. The savings are against current MRP and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 13th January 2008. Prices correct at time of press.Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km). Matiz 1.0 SE: Urban – 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban – 60.1 (4.7), Combined – 50.4 (5.6). CO₂ emissions 139g/km. Kalos 1.2 S: Urban – 33.2 (8.5), Extra-urban – 54.3 (5.2), Combined – 44.1 (6.4). CO₂ emissions 153g/km. Lacetti 1.6 SX: Urban – 30.7 (9.2), Extra-urban – 47.8 (5.9), Combined – 39.7 (7.1). CO₂ emissions 178g/km.

AUDI

A4, 2.4 sport cabriolet auto, 2003, gold met with black leather, 88000 miles, £13950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

A4, 3.2 fsi quattro tip auto, 2006, blue metallic with beige pearl nappa leather, 14600 miles, £24950, Martin James Cars,Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)



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2003 53 SAAB 9-5 2.2 TDi Vector, 4 Doors, Automatic, Black, Part Grey Leather Trim, Climate Control, Radio Cassette/CD Player, Alloy Wheels.....**£9,495**

SAAB 9-5

2003 03 SAAB 9-5 Aero 2.3L Hot, Steel Grey, Grey Leather Trim, Electric Mirrors, Electric Windows, Climate Control, Radio Cassette/CD Player, Alloy Wheels.....**£8,495**

2003 03 SAAB 9-5 Vector Estate 2.0 EcoPower, Merlot Red, Grey Part Leather Trim, Electric Mirrors, Electric Windows, Climate Control, Radio Cassette/CD Player, Alloy Wheels. **This car now with PPC Power Upgrade ...£7,495**

2002 02 SAAB 9-5 Vector 2.0 EcoPower, Automatic, Steel Grey, Grey Part Leather Trim, Electric Mirrors, Electric Windows, Climate Control, Radio Cassette/CD Player, Alloy Wheels.....**£6,495**

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SAAB 9-3 DIESEL

2001 51 SAAB 9-3 3 Door 2.2TDi, Sungreen, Grey Part Leather, Electric Mirror, Electric Windows, Climate Control, Radio/CD Player, Alloy Wheels.....**£4,750**

SAAB 9-3

2002 52 SAAB 9-3 Vector 2.0 EcoPower, Steel Grey, Grey/Parchment, Part Leather Trim, Electric Mirrors, Electric Windows, Climate Control, Radio/CD Player, Alloy Wheels.....**£8,995**

2003 03 SAAB 9-3 Aero 2.0 Hot (210BHP), Silver, Grey/Parchment Part Leather Trim, Electric Mirrors, Electric Windows, Climate Control, Radio/CD Player, Alloy Wheels.....**£7,995**

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A4, 2.5 Quattro Sport 6 speed manual, 2003, grey with grey leather, 85000 miles, £9995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

CONTINENTAL GT, 2005, arena red metallic with saddle leather interior, 28000 miles, £64950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 323i, 254461, central locking, full leather, head restraints, power hood, abs, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric front windows, cd player, uk supplied, 17" alloys, montreal blue met, 70000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325Ci SPORT, au52cgv, orient blue, 0 miles, £11000, Big Motoring World, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325i SPORT, 20038188, titanium silver, 65459 miles, £12000, Big Motoring World, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 328Ci 2793cc 2 door, 2000, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking leather upholstery alarm driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering mileage verified immobiliser electric windows, met blue, 95000 miles, £6995, Northdown Road Motor Company, Margate, 01843 290890 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 1.6i Saloon 4d 1596cc, £316hmq, mot---11/04/08 good runner, green, £695.00, DCD Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325ci coupe manual, 2002, topaz blue met with anthracite cloth and leather, 49000 miles, £9950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 330ci coupe manual individual, 2001, green metallic with green leather, 97000 miles, £8950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318ise, 2001, silver met with grey cloth, 96000 miles, £5950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, 1.4 SX 5dr, 11/03/2005, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, red, 17094 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 24637, finished in poly silver with grey interior manual, grey, 0 miles, £5995, Caffyns Tumbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

LACETTI, Sport 1.8, 2004, silver, 23612 miles, £5995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 1.0 A, 388639, finished in poly silver with black interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £5695, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

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NEON, Le Auto, ex51 reu, central locking, cd player, radio, a/c, E/fw, twin air bags, cloth upholstery, pas, abs, black, 32000 miles, £2995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN BERLINGO 600, 09 1999, 1.9d white mot jul 08, 0 miles, £1995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CITROEN BERLINGO 600 LX, 05 2004, 2.0 hdi white elec window 43.000 miles, £3995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i SX 3dr, 2005, 1.1i sx 3dr hatch, poseidon blue, 33362 miles, £5995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i SX 3dr, 2007, 1.1i sx 3dr hatch, wicked red, 3000 miles, £6995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.1i L 3dr, 2006, 1.1i L 3dr hatch, sport red, 8462 miles, £5995, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2004, special edition, white, 21924 miles, £6495, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.1i Desire 5dr, 2005, special edition, white, 10 miles, £6495, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.6i 16V Exclusive 5dr, 2002, mauve, 41000 miles, £5995, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2007, special edition, silver, 1000 miles, £8295, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

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TERIOS, 2005 5 Door 1.3 Sport Automatic Petrol, 447649, metallic paintwork, daihatsu terios 2005 5 door 1.3 sport automatic petrol honda honda Ashford drake & fletcher silver metallic, 2005, 17656 miles, automatic, petrol, 5 doors, 2 previous owners, silver, £7290, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Ashford, 0845 371 0201 (TRADE)

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BRAVO, 1.9 MultiJet 16V 150 Sport, 2195256, choice of colours, 0 miles, £13795, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

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PANDA, 1.2 4x4, 20256, choice of colours, 0 miles, £7695, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 Active Sport 3dr, 30/05/2006, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 21995 miles, £5199, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

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KA, Style 1.3i, 2006, panther black with charcoal special trim, 25000 miles, £3995, UM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

KA, Style Climate, 2006, moon dust silver, 0 miles, £5495, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3, 2002, met black, 55660 miles, £2795, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

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ACCORD, 2.0 SE Saloon 4dr VTec, 04/2001, air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control power assisted steering service history, silver, 55000 miles, £3, 995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

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Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opens in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Supply NVQ Assessor Health & Social Care

Various hours available. Salary range £17,640 – £25,294 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/NVQ/KOS



Senior Nursery Officer – Education and Curriculum

37 hrs per week. Salary starting from £16,284 per annum.

Post Ref: 08/04/KOS



Curriculum Support Assistant Music

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285

pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/03/KOS



Curriculum Support Assistant – Beauty

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285

pro rata per annum.

Post ref: 04/118/KOS



Learning Support – Independent Living & Leisure Skills

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £16,284

pro rata per annum. One Year fixed term post

Post Ref: 07/71/KOS



Resource Assistant/Placement Organiser

18.5 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: RA17/KOS

Central Administrator

37 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 per annum.

Post Ref: 06/157/KOS



Central Administrator

27 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 07/48/KOS



Supply Trainer Demonstrator Motor Vehicle

Various hours available. Salary starting from £18,285 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/TD/KOS



For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

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Sheppey College

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College, a leading Higher Education and Further Education College. We are looking for motivated people to join our team and help us change lives for the better and achieve our goal of being one of the best colleges by 2010.

Lecturer Construction – Wood Occupations (Sheppey College)

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 05/60/KOS

Lecturer Hairdressing (Sheppey College)

14.8 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/07/KOS

Supply Lecturers (Sheppey College) are required in the following areas:

Administration

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Admin/KOS

Cache

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Cache/KOS

Construction

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Con/KOS

Basic Skills (at Canterbury and Sheppey College)

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/BS/KOS

Text & Word Processing

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/TWP/KOS

Supported Learning

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/SL/KOS

Caretaker (Sheppey College)

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,464 per annum.

Post Ref: 04/03/KOS

Supply Learning Support – (Sheppey College)

Various hours available, salary starting from £16,284 pro rata per annum. Please specify your area/s of expertise in your application form.

Beauty

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

Childcare

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

Supported Learning

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym at Canterbury Campus
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme
- Close to City Centre



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Estate & Building Services Manager

37 hrs per week, salary: £44,149 - £49,875 per annum Post ref: EBSM1/KoS

Interview Date: Tuesday 22 January 2008.

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to ensure that College sites are fully utilised, maintained and enhanced, to provide an optimum learning and working environment for all users. You will have the opportunity to produce, update and develop the College's property and accommodation strategies, and will prepare maintenance and small buildings works programmes and schedules. You will lead on health and safety strategy and policy, and ensure the provision and maintenance of effective fire precautions, security systems and safety arrangements. Assisting the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in the preparation of relevant capital and revenue budgets, you will also manage the department's budgets and service contracts, and line manage the Estates team. You will develop and manage the College's energy management policy, advise on the use of professional services in connection with estates services, and will take responsibility for buildings & grounds maintenance and security for the insurance of the premises and assets.

To be successful, you will have a relevant professional qualification such as RICS, RIBA, MBIFM, or MIMechE, as well as professional qualifications in the area of Estates Management. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate considerable and successful estates management experience. You will have demonstrable experience of managing change with a commitment to continuous improvement, as well as having direct experience of line managing staff, budgets and resource management.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, have a high level of interpersonal skills and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to main bus/train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
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Marketing and Communications Manager

37 hrs per week, salary: £36,188 per annum Post Ref: 0806/KoS

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the college's marketing and communications, to establish, lead and manage a multi-disciplinary marketing and communications team; providing strategic vision and direction to ensure that the college's goals are met.

You will lead in the development, implementation and evaluation of a range of communications and marketing projects including events, campaigns and consultations.

The strategy you develop will be informed by thorough market and competitor research. You will be responsible for analysing and reporting to the Senior Management Team on the findings of this research and on campaign effectiveness and progress against budget and targets.

The college's internal communications are a key element of this role as the college strives to "Be the best college in the South East". Your team will commission, write, edit, proof read and coordinate internal and external publications, leaflets and promotional materials. Your experience of working with local, regional and national media will be essential in building and communicating the college's brand values and identity through a proactive media and public relations strategy.

This post is a senior role within the college structure and you will be required to provide reputation management advice and media advice to senior managers.

To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, and experience of leading a marketing and communications team.

You will possess a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

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- Generous Holiday Allowance
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CAPITAL PROJECT MANAGER

37 hrs per week, salary: c£70,000 per annum Post ref: CPM1/KoS

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the redevelopment project, ensuring that it is delivered on time, within budget, and in accordance with the design brief and targets. Leading the project on behalf of the College, you will direct, co-ordinate and supervise the project in association with the College's Senior Management Team, Project Team and consultants. Responsible for ensuring that the overall project programme can be approved by the Corporation and all activities are completed within defined parameters, you will also prepare the Estates Working Party papers in liaison with the Principal and the Clerk to the Corporation. You will recommend and secure approval for any modifications of variation to the agreed brief, and will advise the Corporation on overall risk and exposure through the Capital programme. You will be responsible for all aspects of financial management in liaison with the College's Director of Finance and Corporate Services, including monitoring of cashflow against College plans, all forms of asset management, including tenders, procurement and leasing options, and achieving best value in line with LSC guidelines.

To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, such as a Postgraduate qualification in project management, or equivalent experience of public sector construction. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate detailed understanding of the financial and contractual management of construction projects, and the ability to think strategically to lead and advocate on complex projects. You will also have negotiation skills, and the ability to work to deadlines and to lead and motivate a team.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

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Faculty Head Engineering & Construction

37 hrs per week, salary no less than £40,622 per annum Post Ref: FHEC1/KoS

We are seeking an individual of the highest calibre to help achieve our goal of being one of the best FE College by 2010.

You will be responsible for the operational delivery of the strategic plan within the Engineering & Construction Faculty, and will ensure a quality provision and suitable curriculum development to aid the learner experience. You will also play a key role in contributing to the development of the College's strategic & development plans, and will lead and inspire a team of Section Managers.

As a College we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of both young people and vulnerable adults, and the promotion of this will form an integral part of your role.

You will have significant experience in education leadership and people management, and will have the leadership skills to set the highest possible standards, both within your Faculty and throughout the College.

In return, we will offer you the rewards and support you would expect at such a senior level.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference. The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

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Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher training, policing, health and social care - and is a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

Computing Services

Computer Liaison Officer (Two Posts)

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum

Following a restructure of our Computing Services Department, we're seeking two additional experienced professionals to join the Computing Liaison Team. As part of this small team, you'll proactively develop the department's relationship with the faculties - you'll also identify the potential benefits of IT, help to establish business cases, and meet the needs of key stakeholders in this field.

Educated to degree level, you'll combine project management experience with the proven ability to enable the interaction of IT and business operation. It's also important that you are an excellent communicator who is comfortable liaising at all levels of our organisation. A specific background in IT support would be an advantage, as would experience of developing service level agreements. Ref: CLO/CS/77.

Interview date: 21 & 22 February 2008.

Web Systems Administrator/ Programmer

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum (A higher salary may be available for an exceptional candidate)

As part of our Infrastructure Group, you'll provide expert technical support and development across our IT infrastructure. You will take responsibility for a number of key web services - and make a real contribution to our strategic projects, including an integrated identity management system.

Along with experience of web application development technologies and IIS/Windows Server administration, you'll need good interpersonal skills, a flexible approach, and familiarity with internet protocols. Ideally, you will have a working knowledge of C#, .Net, SQL, and XHTML - as well as a strong understanding of web technologies such as ADO, AJAX, ASP, XML and CSS. Ref: WSA2/CS/77.

For an informal discussion on either of these vacancies, please contact Louise Sibley on 01227 782522.

Student Support & Guidance

Student Adviser (Dyslexia & Neuro-Diversity)

£22,332 to £24,403 per annum

You will be responsible for prospective and registered students with dyslexia and neuro-diverse conditions (such as dyspraxia and Asperger syndrome), ensuring that the University provides appropriate support for their needs.

We are seeking a team member to provide advice, guidance and information to students and to advise other University staff on appropriate, reasonable adjustments to enable access to the curriculum and all aspects of student life.

You will be educated to at least A level standard or equivalent and be able to demonstrate that you have broad experience of working in a supportive capacity with people with neuro-diverse conditions (in either an educational or voluntary sector setting). Further study or professional development in the field of dyslexia and/or neuro-diversity would be advantageous. Ref: SA/SSG/77.

Library Services

Faculty Liaison Librarian (Health & Social Care)

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic librarian to join the Academic Services team at a busy University Library. You will be responsible for sharing academic liaison for the Health & Social Care Faculty, and will contribute to the provision of a library service which is responsive to the needs of all students and staff.

A qualified librarian, you should have previous professional library experience, ideally within the university sector. Excellent presentation and communication skills, along with a good working knowledge of information resources, are essential. You must have a commitment to continued professional development and be able to work independently, as well as part of a team. Ref: FLL2/LS/77.

Sport Science, Tourism and Leisure

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science (Biomechanics)

£26,666 to £40,335 per annum

Applications are invited for a full-time post of Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science to teach Biomechanics on a range of undergraduate programmes as well as contributing to the Department's expanding research programme. Applicants who can also contribute to other areas of sport and exercise science including research methods will be particularly welcome.

Applicants should possess a relevant first and/or higher degree and ideally should also possess a research degree and BASES accreditation. Ref: BIO/SSTL/77.

Informal enquiries to the Head of Department, Dr Chris Bull on 01227 782334.

The starting date is 1 April 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Campus Services

Security Porter

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum

You will be responsible for maintaining the general security of the University premises including residential and office accommodation, maintaining CCTV surveillance, setting intruder and fire alarms and reacting to breaches of security. There will be some receptionist and switchboard duties particularly at nights and weekends.

You will have previous security related experience preferably within an educational establishment or similar, be of smart appearance with demonstrable interpersonal skills. You will have excellent communication skills and be able to use the telephone and e-mail systems. A relevant SIA licence will be an advantage.

Shift allocations and duties are variable and flexibility is required. There will be both day and night shift working at any one of our sites although this post will be predominantly a night shift post and you must recognise this as part of the role. Ref: SP4/CAM/77.

Accommodation Office

Security Caretaker (20 hours)

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum pro rata

The University has a wide range of student accommodation housing some 1,500 students in either self-catering flats or in catered halls spread over different sites, both on and off campus. During vacations they are also available for conferences and commercial letting.

You will be an integral part of a small team which helps to secure and maintain the student living environment at the University Halls of Residence sites.

With a background in caretaking/security in the public sector you will be able to deliver an excellent level of customer service, possess good communication and interpersonal skills and have a 'can do' approach to minor repairs, maintenance and general duties.

The hours of work will be Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday. Ref: SC2/ACC/77.

Night Warden (Two Posts)

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum

The University has a wide range of student accommodation housing some 1,500 students in either self-catering flats or in catered halls. The accommodation is spread over different sites, both on and off campus in Canterbury and during vacations they are available for conferences and commercial letting.

Reporting to the Accommodation Services Manager you will help to secure and maintain the student living environment on the University Halls of Residence sites working a varied shift roster any 5 days out of 7, mainly night shifts. The successful applicant, will nevertheless, need to be flexible and with due notice (usually a month's notice of change) accept shift changes readily.

With a background in caretaking/security in the public sector you will be able to deliver as part of a central security team an excellent level of customer service to students, staff and visitors to the University. You will also have good communication and interpersonal skills. Ref: NW1/ACC/77.

Campus Catering Services

Executive Head Chef

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

Working with the Front of House and Catering Systems Manager this is a key managerial post to move the catering service forward.

With at least NVQ Level 2/3 in Food Preparation and Cooking you will have worked in an institutional catering environment at Head Chef level. You will also be in possession of a current Intermediate Food Hygiene Certificate and have been actively involved (preferably led) the introduction of HACCP into a food production kitchen.

You should be conscientious with flair and creativity and be keen to lead an excellent culinary team towards continuing success. Proven leadership skills, financial acumen, communication skills and flair, imagination and enthusiasm for food are essential as is the ability to work in a very busy environment. Ideally you will have experience of working in Higher Education. Ref: EHC1/CAT/77.

Department of Childhood Studies (Location to be confirmed)

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer - Physical Education

£27,466 to £40,335 per annum

You will be a dynamic member of staff working with the existing Physical Education team at an exciting time, when new initiatives are being designed and implemented. You will teach across a range of programmes, including the BA/BSc Physical Education and Sport & Exercise Science, and also will make significant contributions to the ongoing development of Physical Education at the University

You will have a Masters degree (or a commitment to undertake one) and be familiar with current national and international developments and issues in the field of Physical Education. Experience of, or research interest in Inclusion and/or social and cultural aspects of Physical Education are desirable. Ref: LSL9/CHS/77.

Informal enquiries to the Programme Director Paul Carney on 01227 782877 or paul.carney@canterbury.ac.uk

Department of Educational Research & NICER

Research Fellow in Early Years (Fixed Term for 2 years)

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

Attached to an early years project on character and values education, you will carry out fieldwork, be responsible for analysis and literature reviews and contribute to the writing of reports and materials for a new project beginning in the Autumn Term 2007.

You will be enthusiastic and committed, contributing towards a dynamic and ambitious group of researchers and practitioners. Your subject background will be less important than strong generic research skills, the ability to deliver work of the highest quality and to work as part of a team. Ref: RF1/TEM/77.

For an information discussion, please contact Professor James Arthur on 01227 782277.

Office of The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Academic Registrar

Attractive salary: up to £60,000 per annum

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding individual to the post of Academic Registrar. This is a senior position offering an exciting opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction and management of several important dimensions of student administration within the university.

Reporting to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), your responsibilities will involve leadership of a range of central Registry functions including: management of the central record system (QLS); management of the timetabling and rooming function and system (Syllabus+); student registration; invoicing of tuition fees in liaison with the Student Loans Company (SLC); administration of examinations and processing of student results; management and organisation of graduation and award ceremonies; statistical reporting for internal and external purposes such as required by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

You will be qualified to degree level or equivalent, preferably to higher degree or doctorate level. You will have extensive, senior and relevant experience, including managing a mainframe database, managing staff and budgets, preferably within a Higher Education environment. Excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills are essential. Ref: ACA/APA/77.

MEDWAY CAMPUS

Allied Health Professions

Senior Lecturer in Speech & Language Therapy (0.5fte)

£32,796 to £40,335 per annum pro rata

We are looking for an HPC-registered Speech and Language Therapist to join the enthusiastic SLT team supporting the Post Graduate Diploma in Speech and Language Therapy delivered jointly with University of Greenwich.

You will have expertise in working with adults with communication disorders, and although not essential, you may also have an interest in voice, applied linguistics, adult learning disabilities, or hearing impairment. You will develop this as a key role with existing colleagues from Canterbury Christ Church University and University of Greenwich. You will hold a relevant degree and be interested in extending your professional profile. Ref: SLT1/AHP/77.

For informal discussion, please contact Professor Kate Springett, Head of Department, on 01227 782935 or kate.springett@canterbury.ac.uk or Marian McCormick on 01634 894432 or marian.mccormick@canterbury.ac.uk

Closing date: 1 February 2008.

SALOMONS' CAMPUS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Computing Services

Campus Support Lead

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum

As part of our User Technology team, you'll provide essential support to a wide range of users - resolving any problems they are experiencing with hardware, software, networking and AV. While based at the Salomons campus, you will on occasion need to travel to other campuses across Kent.

Having previously worked in a Computing Support environment, you must be an experienced IT professional with plenty of initiative. Self-motivation and flexibility are essential in this role, along with good communication skills at all levels. Ref: CSL/CS/77.

For an informal discussion please contact Louise Sibley on 01227 782522.

Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting the appropriate reference. No agencies.

Closing date unless stated: 25 January 2008.



Saulfon Pharmaceuticals Limited is an independent manufacturing company producing contact lenses and solutions for markets around the world. We currently have the following vacancies for;

QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY MANAGER – CHEMISTRY (Ref: QCC-3)

The position of Quality Control Laboratory Manager is within our busy QC Chemistry laboratory, reporting to the Quality Assurance Manager.

You will ideally hold a degree (or equivalent) in Analytical Science (or similar), have a varied experience of analytical techniques including chromatographic, spectroscopic, titrimetric and wet chemical analysis, and experience in method validation.

Good organisational skills, computer literacy, high self-motivation and well-developed communication skills are essential ideally with a minimum of 2 years working in a regulated analytical laboratory.

Hours of work: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN (Ref: ENG-4)

We are currently seeking an enthusiastic and pro-active Maintenance Electrician.

As part of the maintenance team you will help maintain and repair plant equipment throughout the Ashford sites. Working to a high standard and compliant with legislation you will need to be able to work as part of a team, or alone.

You will have served a recognised electrical apprenticeship and possess the 16th edition certification. Experience as a qualified maintenance electrician is required and mechanical experience will be an advantage. A full driving license is essential.

Hours of work: 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

We offer a competitive salary, holiday entitlement and productivity bonus scheme.

To apply please post or email your CV stating your salary expectations to:-

Post: Mrs. S. Keeka (HR Department)
Saulfon Pharmaceuticals Limited,
Unit 8, Mace Industrial Estate
Ashford
Kent TN24 8EP
Email: simonilk@saulfon.co.uk

Demelza Hospice Care for Children provides care to life limited children and support to their families. We rely almost entirely on fundraising to run our services and the Trading Company provides a valuable income stream.

We have the following opportunities for the right candidates in our Charity Shops working with our teams of dedicated volunteers:-

Shop Manager, Ashford

37.5 hours per week Monday to Saturday with a day off in the week.

Shop Manager, Strood

22.5 hours per week to be worked over three days, including alternate Saturdays.

Retail Assistant, Hythe

13 hours per week, to be worked over two days to include alternate Fridays and Saturdays.

For all posts you will need:-

- Retail experience, preferably in the charity sector
- Excellent people and Customer Service skills
- To be numerate and able to keep good records
- Ability to undertake moving and handling within our guidelines, our shops premises have several floors
- Excellent organisation skills
- To be able to train and work alongside our excellent volunteers as part of a team.

For an application pack call our recruitment line on 01795 845295 stating the post you are interested in.

For an informal chat call Claire Jordan, Trading Manager on 01795 845202.

Closing Date: 23rd January, 2007

www.demelza.org.uk

A disclosure check will be required for the successful applicant.



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Central Control Operator - 16 hrs per week £17,043 - £24,444 pro rata Planning & Communities

Our Housing Services team are seeking to recruit a further member of staff to join its busy 24 hour Control Centre, monitoring Lifeline Clients, CCTV surveillance system and Telecare.

The shift system is varied and covers the full 24 hour clock, 365 days per year. Therefore unsocial working hours forms an integral part of this demanding post and post-holders will be expected to be flexible in their approach.

Post-holders are expected to be proactive in their approach to problem solving and a "Can Do" attitude is essential. A calm disposition and an ability to multi-task is also a vital requirement.

Additionally in order to fulfil this demanding role you will need:

- Excellent communication and observation skills.
- First Class hearing and a clear speaking voice.
- You will have the ability to prioritise your work-load in a high pressure environment.
- Good administration skills, including data entry and computer literate.

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COMPANIES of all sizes and sectors have been invited to take part in Kent's largest business exhibition and conference.

Kent 2020 Vision aims to showcase the best in business in the county and provide them with opportunities for future growth.

More than 300 leading companies exhibited at last year's event with at least 3,000 people attending. This year's conference is expected to attract more businesses and visitors. Early bookers will be able to choose locations which suit them.

The event organised by Business Link and supported by Kent County Council, which is now in its third year, will be held at Kent Showground in Detling on Thursday, April 3.

Tony Buddin, Business Link's head of marketing, said: "To some it may seem a long way off, but I can assure you that this business-to-business event is already firmly booked in the diaries of many companies in Kent and further afield.

"Well-organised, promoted and attended exhibitions such as Kent 2020 Vision are a valuable opportunity for local businesses to promote their products or services.

"They are also useful for networking, making new contacts and signing up new clients."

To book an exhibition stand visit www.kent2020.co.uk or call 01732 878555.

Science Park recognised as an important site

AN OFFICIAL report has given Kent Science Park the green light for its short and long-term expansion.

Planning inspector David Wildsmith's study acknowledged that the Sittingbourne site is "unique within the Thames Gateway" as "a regionally important cluster of technology and knowledge-based businesses".

He said the land to the south and south-east of the park is "the most acceptable direction for expansion".

Mr Wildsmith suggested a master plan for long-term expansion to be drawn up, but to meet shorter term needs he recommended planning permission be granted for limited growth outside its current boundary.

He recognised the value of the Kent Science Park Resource Centre, which offers a BSc foundation degree.

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Convincing Kent's business leaders to carry on choosing a Mercedes-Benz

Staying positive

Arguably 2008 is one of the most uncertain years for business in a decade. Here **Jo James**, director of membership services for Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce tries to gauge the overall feel for prospects in the next 12 months – and believes confidence is the key

I BELIEVE that 2008 could be described as an "interesting" year for business: it is almost as if the whole business climate is hanging on a "wait and see" situation.

The Bank of England cut the interest rate by one quarter of one per cent, but with promises of more to come in the New Year, that should be good news.

"The climate facing UK businesses has worsened, and the position will become riskier and more difficult over the next year," said the British Chambers of Commerce, in the assessment of its Quarterly Economic Survey.

But it observed: "The business sector is still strong... we urge the Government to pay particular attention to threats facing small businesses."

Dennis Turner, Chief Economist of HSBC Bank, commenting in the bank's December economic commentary on the interest rate cut by the Bank of England said: "The behaviour of the labour market confirms that the economy remains in reasonable shape. New jobs are still being created, employment in the three months to September hit a new all-time high and the claimant count measure of unemployment fell back to 825,000, the lowest for three years.

"It appears to be fear of what is to come rather than what has already happened that forced the Monetary Policy Committee's hand."

The UK Government has managed to delay implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive, which could potentially cost UK businesses up to 250,000 jobs, according to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

David Frost, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The proposals in the directive unfairly impact on the UK



CONFIDENCE: Jo James, from Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce says we should not have a negative attitude

economy as we currently employ a third of all EU agency workers. The Directive also risks the established flexibility of our labour market, which has been a major factor driving job creation." The legislation will be discussed again next year.

The Halifax has reported the third consecutive monthly fall in house prices, the first time this has happened since 1995. Consumer confidence indicators are at their lowest levels for five years.

In an unprecedented move, central banks around the world took coordinated action to boost liquidity, announcing steps to make it easier for stressed banks to access cash in the hopes of quelling the knock-on impact of the credit crunch. But if that does not work, what then?

Wow! Hold on to your hats, business people – we might be in for a rough ride.

There again, we might not. It does seem to

me that is precisely where we are – nowhere precise. In all the years I have been involved in business support, I don't think we have ever been in such an unpredictable position.

There is an optimistic view. If all these "wait and see" aspects work out on the positive side the economic stability and prosperity we have enjoyed for the last few years will continue.

I think we can all contribute to the positive. All the indications are that we are doing quite well at the minute, thank you – but everybody seems to think that things are bound to go bad.

This is a negative attitude, which can in itself contribute to economic turn-down. There is such a thing as "talking down" the economy. I'm not suggesting that we should ignore indicators and act irresponsibly, but confidence – in consumers and businesses – is catching.

Let us all have a Happy New Year, and look on the bright side!

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Mixed bag of results for Invicta stocking

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Ramsgate 2 Folkestone Invicta 1

THE Christmas period heralded mixed results for Neil Cugley's Folkestone Invicta as they picked up a defeat and a loss in their two festive games.

A Frankie Chappell header on 64 minutes secured a much needed victory for Invicta on Boxing Day against Hastings United. The 1-0 win was only their third victory at the Buzzlines Stadium this season.

Disappointing

However, they were brought back down to earth with a disappointing defeat against high-flying Ramsgate on Saturday.

Invicta worked hard in the first half and their best chance came on 39 minutes, when Leigh Bremner's shot was tipped over by Paul Wilkerson in the Ramsgate goal.

Ramsgate took the lead on 73 minutes, when Warren Schulz capitalised on a goal mouth scramble and poked the ball into the net.

The lead only lasted two minutes, as Richard Shittu's effort found the back of the net off a Ramsgate defender.

The game was won in the 85th minute when Dan Doltan placed his free kick in the bottom corner of the net, out of the reach of Invicta goalkeeper Luke Stonebridge.

A disappointed Cugley said: "I am disappointed we didn't win. I thought we were the better side throughout the game. To give the goal away like we did having a gap in the defensive wall was hard to take. It was just that little bit of quality in the final third that cost us again. At this level you need money to get that kind of quality in. I think a draw would have been a fair result."



Picture LAWRENCE ARNOLD

• Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk MIXED FORTUNES: Invicta's Leigh Bremner worked tirelessly for the cause, but was denied by Ramsgate goalkeeper Paul Wilkerson

Whites maintain festive record



Picture SIMON HARRIS

A STUNNING equaliser from Andy Hessenthaler ensured Dover Athletic were unbeaten over the Christmas period.

It was Whitstable who took the lead early in the second half, when Danny Tipple's cross was turned into his own net by Dover defender Matt Bourne.

Just after the hour Hessenthaler sent the crowd into raptures, when his strike from the edge of the area found the top corner.

He said: "I didn't think it was fair a result on the balance of play, but you have to give Whitstable credit for making us work hard. For me, too many of our players had an off day and I am disappointed to drop two points without being disrespectful to Whitstable."

On Boxing Day, two strikes from Frannie Collin secured a 2-1 win at Ashford Town, despite going a goal behind.

The Whites were forced to work hard for their win as

FOOTBALL

Dover Athletic 1 Whitstable Town 1

Ashford provided a strong test. Town opened the scoring with a goal from Paul Jones and felt they should have been 2-0 up at the break.

Solid build-up play from the Dover midfield proved crucial and it was Collin's chip and calm finish from Jimmy Dryden's pass that wrapped up a 2-1 victory.

A delighted Hessenthaler added: "If you had said to me at the start of the season that we would be three points clear at this stage I would have bitten your hand off. So all in all I am happy. A lot of people expected us to win, but you have to remember we didn't lose and are still 11 games unbeaten."

yourshepway REVIEW OF THE YEAR

It's been an eventful year of sport in the county

THE biggest event in the 2007 sporting calendar was the Tour de France which swept through the streets of Kent, but there were a number of highlights in the county last year.

JANUARY: Maidstone United moved one step closer to a return to the town after work began on a new ground at the former Ministry of Defence site in James Whatman Way. The club acquired a 99-year lease on the site, courtesy of a £98,000 council loan.

FEBRUARY: Former Arsenal and England striker Ian Wright became a director of Ryman Division One South strugglers Ashford Town. Wright hoped to make an impact on the club's youth set-up by taking the role of director of football strategy.

MARCH: After seven years in the wilderness, plans to revive Canterbury City Football Club were given the go-ahead. The club folded in 1999 due to lack of interest, but at a public meeting, the club were given the go-ahead to join the British Energy County League.

APRIL: Margate boxer Mehrdud Takaloo lost his WBU Welterweight crown in front of 35,000 fans at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. Takaloo was defeated on points in his title fight with Michael Jennings from Chorley.

MAY: Steve Bennett from Orpington became the first referee to take charge of an FA Cup final at the new Wembley Stadium, as Chelsea defeated Manchester United 1-0. Bennett said: "It's every referee's dream to officiate the cup final and I guess it makes it extra special because of where it's taking place and the teams that are involved."

JUNE: Kent cricket coach Graham Ford caused controversy after he appeared to verbally accept a one-year deal to coach the India national side. After the South African travelled to Chennai for an interview, he declined the role to remain at Kent.

JULY: The sun-drenched streets of Kent hosted one of the world's biggest sporting events in the form of the Tour de France. More than two million people lined the 126-mile stage, which took in Dartford, Medway, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford.

AUGUST: Kent lifted their first trophy in six years after beating Gloucestershire in the final of the Twenty20 Cup at Edgbaston. Ryan McLaren starred, taking the first hat-trick in a Twenty20 final.

SEPTEMBER: Gillingham chairman Paul Scally began his search for a new manager after Ronny Jepson quit the club. Jepson offered his resignation on September 9 after losing five of the first six games to end his 22-month spell at the Kent club.

OCTOBER: The England rugby team displayed great courage in reaching the World Cup final, no more so than ex-Tunbridge Wells schoolboy Martin Corry. The Leicester Tigers forward missed out on the victorious 2003 campaign down under, but was instrumental in helping England overcome Australia and France before losing to South Africa in the final.

NOVEMBER: Gillingham ended their eight-week search for a manager when former Stevenage and Grays boss Mark Stimson was installed. Chairman Paul Scally interviewed several candidates, but was convinced he had found the right man. He said: "Managers at a very senior level have said they believe he is a fantastic coach and manager and he is going to go on and do very well."

DECEMBER: Sir Trevor Brooking took time out of his role in offering the England job to Fabio Capello, to support Kent FA's blueprint for grassroots football to 2012. Sir Trevor said: "Football is perceived to be awash with money, but at community level that is far from the case."

CHEERED: Andy Hessenthaler's side are three points clear at the top of Ryman Division One South

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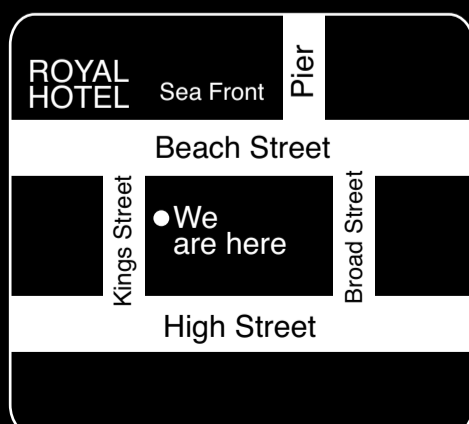
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